



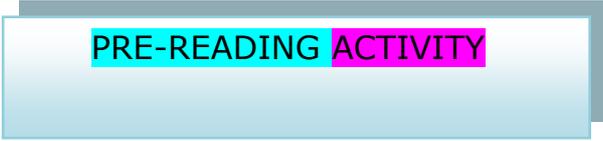
READING-II

**HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LESSON:**

- Reading can be made easy: Some Exercises to Perfect It 10.1.1
- Reading a Poem Closely for Poetic Devices 10.1.2
- Reading a Poem: Select the Best Option 10.2
- Reading an Advertisement Closely 10.3
- Reading a Paragraph for Content Words and Structure Words 10.4.1
- Reading the Alternate and Opposite Meanings of the List of Words Given 10.4.2
- Reading and Discussing: Job Vacancies in Advertisements 10.5  
What Have You Learnt?

**ANTICIPATED LEARNING OUTCOMES:**

- When we read a poem we must also do a close study of it to understand the finer nuances of the poem, such as the use of various kinds of poetic devices since they often make our understanding of the poem's content and context clearer and greater in-depth.
- Reading an advertisement for vacancies with great scrutiny and attention is important, so that one knows one's suitability for the post advertised.
- You will learn in detail about content words and structure words.
- You will also learn about synonyms and antonyms.



**PRE-READING ACTIVITY**

Some of the objectives of the reading exercises under this Unit are given below.

- ❖ You will be able to read a poem and find its central theme, some of its finer nuances and the poetic devices used in it.
- ❖ The exercises given under Unit 2 of reading will help you to identify content words and structure words and even synonyms and antonyms.
- ❖ You will be able to read job advertisements closely and will be able to identify the kind of person who is suitable for the posts advertised.
- ❖ By the end of this Unit you will also be able to discuss an article, an advertisement or any other kind of written material. This will enable you to make a smooth transition from the activity of reading to speaking about it and discussing it with others.



### The central theme of the poem:

This poem describes the love of a man for a woman. This love is compared to a war being fought by two opposing parties. The woman's weapons are her eyes and her voice. **The lover can be seen as the victim and the beloved lady as the enemy.** According to the speaker, love has made "a final conquest" of him. In the poem the fair lady has exploited the person's weaknesses, which has led to his apparent conquest.

Try to read the above poem aloud and attempt the exercise based on it. Before that I will lead you through a simple interactive exercise that is based on this poem.

Let us begin by looking into some of these questions.

➤ Who is the fair singer?

Or we could rephrase this question as

➤ Is the poet or the lady the fair singer?

Well, it is quite likely here the lady is the fair singer. The poet falls in love with her voice and looks. She is a singer who captivates his mind with her voice and binds his heart with her eyes(looks).

Who are the two opposing parties here?

The two opposing parties here are the poet/the lover and the lady—the fair singer.

➤ What are the weapons that the lady uses in this poem?

The lady's weapons are her eyes and her voice.

➤ Who do you think is the lady in this poem?

The lady is a singer who has a sweet voice and sweet. The emphasis throughout the poem is on her singing and looks that captivate the mind and heart of the listener.

➤ Who is the speaker?

The speaker in this poem is the poet.

➤ Who is the winner?

The winner in this poem is the fair singer. In fairness, we can include the lover also as a winner.

➤ Why is the title of the poem "The Fair Singer"?

The protagonist 'I' is no doubt the poet but his beloved who captivates him is the fair singer and hence the title of the poem is The Fair Singer.

**Note:** The reference to the fair singer's eyes is an idea that is fairly common in a wide range of Urdu poetry and a lot of Hindi films as well.

For an example, here's a song by Shamshad Begum entitled "Kabhi aar kabhi par" with something to the effect of the poem given above, as it stresses on the power of the eye or the tyrannous eye, to be more precise. It is from a 1954 Indian Hindi-language film "**Aar Paar**" (English: This or That) directed by Guru Dutt. Listen to the audio recording of it and think--doesn't it remind you of "The Fair Singer".

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[Click here](#) for the video by Shamshad Begum, "kabhi aar kabhi par".

Video 9

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRbTg5M4tMk>

Accessed on 23/05/11 at 8:15pm

Now try to attempt the exercise on "The Fair Singer" given below. The hints given will help you understand the poem better.



EXERCISE  
10.1.1

- Qs 1. Is love presented in this poem like a war between two armies?
- Qs 2. Does the fair singer conquer the poet with her eyes alone?
- Qs 3. Cite some of the words used in the poem that suggest warfare.
- Qs 4. Does love win in the poem eventually?
- Qs 5. What is the significance of wind and sun, both of which the fair singer gains?

## Answers 10.1.1

Ans 1. Yes, love is presented as war –between two unequals- between the poet and the fair singer where the latter has the armoury of good looks and captivating voice to conquer the former’s heart and mind.

Ans 2. No, she makes use of both her eyes and her voice. She succeeds in making a conquest of the poet who surrenders to her with his mind and heart.

Ans 3. Conquest, slave, enemy, fighting, fetters, victory, resistance, forces.

Ans 4. Yes; as the lover in the poem says in the final stanza all resistance against her is in vain since she has conquered him with her sweet looks and sweeter voice. Finally, he states that all his forces are undone by her as she has gained both the wind and the sun. So the poem is clearly about a man’s love for a woman, where the man is completely overpowered by her. The lady’s charm and the poet’s surrender do hint at the eventual victory of love

Ans 5. The wind signifies that the poet has been blown over by her voice and the sun signifies that he has been dazzled by her bright looks.

## READING A POEM CLOSELY FOR POETIC DEVICES

(10.1.2)

Time: 15  
mins

When we read a poem we must also do a close study of it to understand the finer nuances of the poem, such as the use of various kinds of poetic devices since these often make our understanding of the poem's content and context more clear and in-depth.

Before we begin this activity,

let us first understand the meanings of some of these poetic devices.

### GLOSSARY

**Alliteration:** The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent words or between closely connected words (e.g. cool, calm, and collected)

**Paradox:** A seemingly absurd or self-contradictory statement, even if actually well-founded [orig: 'para'.=a statement contrary to accepted opinion and doxa=opinion) e.g. "I know that I know nothing at all".].

**Rhyme:** In English versification the standard rhyme consists in the identical rhyming words, of the last stressed vowel and of all the speech sounds following that vowel: late-fate; follow-swallow.

Now attempt the questions given below.

### Exercise 10.1.2

Qs 1. In which lines has alliteration been used in the poem "The Fair Singer".

Qs 2. Discuss any two statements that show paradox in the poem.

Qs 3. Make a list of rhyming words in the poem. (The rhyming words could be the last two words of two consecutive lines, here 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> lines or even the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>; 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> lines.)

Qs 4. What is the poetic device that has been used with the word "fair" to describe the singer?

Qs 5. What is the meaning of the phrase "love did compose"?

## Answers 10.1.2

Ans 1. It has been used in the phrases, "make a final conquest of me", "so sweet", "both beauties", "might captivate my mind", "led from one but singly fair", "soul itself might save".

Ans 2. "So sweet an enemy" and "fatal harmony" show self-contradiction in the meaning and are therefore paradoxical.

Ans 3. "Me, agree"; "enemy, harmony"; "bind, mind"; "fair, hair"; "save, slave"; "wreathe, breathe"; plain, vain"; "choice, voice"; "undone, sun".

Ans 4. The word "fair" is an example of a metaphor since in its meaning it could refer to the singer as a woman (the fair sex) or even as a fair war or a war amongst equals. But the latter meaning is a bit doubtful since the poet clearly says that "all resistance against her was vain", as she had "the advantage both of eyes and voice". So she appears to have an edge over him in this final conquest.

Ans 5. Love in Line 2 could refer to the god of Love who in this contest between the poet and the singer made in the form of the latter "so sweet an enemy" that the poet falls in love for her and is overpowered by her eyes and voice. Whether this love is reciprocal or one-sided is not mentioned clearly in the poem although it seems to be a case of unrequited love for the poet.

Another interpretation could be that in 'Love did compose', 'Love' is used as personification. The poem is actually about the conquest of the poet by love that is represented by the fair singer with her sweet voice and looks. To make a conquest of the poet, love takes the form of the fair singer and he is smitten with love by her beauty and her voice.

The word compose is also significant as it could either mean love composed in the form of this poem on love, or it could suggest that love composed or made in the form of the beloved "so sweet an enemy" in whom the beauties or merits of her eyes and voice combine.

READING A POEM: SELECT THE  
BEST OPTION (10.2)

Time: 10  
mins

Exercise  
10.2

Here are a series of multiple choice questions. Mark the best option out of a choice of four options that are given.

Qs 1. Who is described as fair in the poem?

- (a) the beloved
- (b) the lover
- (c) the conquest
- (d) the poet

Qs 2. What is this poem about?

- (a) a war
- (b) love
- (c) unrequited love
- (d) forces of nature

Qs 3. Which stanza use images from warfare the maximum number of times.

- (a) I
- (b) II
- (c) III
- (d) I and II

Qs 4. Whose "subtle art" is referred to in Stanza 2?

- (a) the hair's
- (b) the man's
- (c) the woman's
- (d) the air's

Qs 5. Which of the following words are associated with the idea of being bound?

- (a) slave
- (b) fetters
- (c) captivate
- (d) a, b and c

Qs 6. For whom is the victory destined?

- (a) the lover
- (b) the beloved
- (c) none
- (d) both a and b

Qs 7. What does the term "both beauties" refer to?

- (a) eyes
- (b) voice
- (c) hair
- (d) a and b

Qs 8. What/ Whom is the fight being waged over?

- (a) a kingdom
- (b) love
- (c) lover
- (d) beloved

## Answers 10.2

1. (a) the beloved. Since the title of the poem itself suggests "the fair singer" and that is precisely how the beloved is referred to throughout the poem.
2. (b) love. The poem is about love. The beloved spreads her charm and the poet surrenders to it. There is no hint at unrequited love.
3. (c) Stanzas I and II use the images from warfare twice while stanza III uses it four times.
4. (c) Refer to stanza II. "But how should I avoid to be her slave/ When subtle art invisibly can wreath/My fetters of the very air I breathe?" The subtle art is that of the fair singer
5. (d) slave means "a person who is the legal property of another or others and is bound to absolute obedience", fetters means "a shackle for holding a prisoner by the ankles" and captivate means "a person or animal that has been taken prisoner or confined". Thus all three of these images suggest the idea of being servile to someone or bound to that person.
6. (d): Both (a) and (b) as in this pleasant war, both are victorious- the lover surrenders to his beloved; the beloved gets her lover to whom she had bequeathed her charm.
7. (d) The term "both beauties" refers to the beloved's eyes and voice which join themselves in fatal harmony. Here 'fatal' means a finality that cannot be erased. The harmony of two hearts bound to each other is final.
8. (d) The fight is being waged over the conquest of love. The fair singer has her cupid's arrows composed of melodious voice and beautiful eyes while the lover has the sensitivity to discern the aesthetics of melody and beauty. Love triumphs at the end.

READING A JOB ADVERTISEMENT  
CLOSELY (10.3)

Time: 10 mins

Exercise  
10.3

Here are a few job advertisements. Read through them and answer the questions that follow

- A Req imdtly Civil Eng/ Site Sup, with services knowhow for Hotel Project near Alipur, Delhi min 8 yrs exp. Mail resume & exp salary at: rochak@hotmail.com
- B EXPORT HOUSE M/F Sr./ Jr. Merchandiser/ Designer for Garments Designer Cum merchandiser for Scarfs, bags, Leather Garments Candidates Prefd near by Naraina. Exp reqd:4 to 5 yrs.
- C **Experienced Female** Receptionist cum Telephone Operator. Apply/ walk-in for interview between 5 & 6 pm: Mittal International, 7 Netaji Subhash Marg, Darya Ganj, N Delhi
- D **Wanted exp. Proof Readers,** two assts for editing and a Production Asst. For coordinating printing and binding. Email: [studiocity2010@gmail.com](mailto:studiocity2010@gmail.com) or Box 159959, Hindustan Times, New Delhi-110001.
- E **SBI Life Insurance Co. Ltd. Req.** Insurance agent (commission basis) age above 25yr., field exp./ good social network must. Earn 40000+ pm. 9810896611.

- Qs 1. Which job is suitable for someone with good editing skills?
- Qs 2. Which job requires fewer educational qualifications but more on the job experience?
- Qs 3. Which job is suited for a person with good skills in garment and accessory designing?
- Qs 4. For which of the advertised jobs can a person with good construction work skills apply?
- Qs 5. Which job is suited for a woman with good communication skills?

Answers  
10.3

1. D - This job description suits someone with good editing skills because it requires proof readers whose job comprises editing written material.
2. E - The other job profiles are for an engineer, garment designer, woman receptionist and editor which need prior experience but a job for an insurance agent requires skill that can be acquired while on the job.
3. B - This option is clear since it is specifically for someone who has knowledge of designing garment, leather bags, scarves and accessories
4. A - This option is suitable for a person with good construction work skills since this job has been advertised for a Civil Engineer/ Site Superintendent with services knowhow for a Hotel Project
5. C - The job that has been advertised for a woman receptionist cum telephone operator is well suited for a woman with good communication skills since her skills would prove to be an asset for this job.

## READING A PARAGRAPH FOR CONTENT WORDS AND STRUCTURE WORDS (10.4.1)

Time: 15  
mins

While reading a paragraph we can divide the kind of words used into:

**Content words** - main verbs, nouns, adjectives and adverbs

**Structure words** - articles, auxiliary verbs used in forming tenses, moods and voices of other verbs, e.g., aren't, be, been,, can, can't, could, couldn't, did, didn't, had, hadn't, have, haven't, may, mayn't, must, mustn't, shall, shan't, was, wasn't, were, weren't, will, won't, would, wouldn't, any and some etc.

One important difference between speaking and writing is that most people acquire the ability to speak in their first language without making any conscious effort, whereas writing has to be learnt. As a result of this for most people writing is a more self-conscious activity, and carries with it the association of 'school' which for many people is not always a happy or successful experience. It is impossible to compare writing and speaking processes without saying what types of writing and speaking we are referring to. Some communicative events have clear differences between them; for example, writing an essay is very different from chatting to a friend. On the other hand, some types of writing and speaking are quite similar; for example, a phone conversation and passing notes to a friend. And some forms of communication are hard to classify categorically as 'speech' or 'writing' at all; for example sign language sms and e-mail chat. Most differences between types of writing and types of speaking are a matter of degree and are related to the actual social context of the writing.

Adapted from an extract taken from "The Politics of Writing" by Romy Clark and Roz Ivanič, p, 85. Lon & New York: Routledge, 1997.

### Exercise 10.4.1

**Highlight** some of the content words and structure words that have been used in the above paragraph.

## Answers 10.4.1

### CONTENT WORDS:-

**VERBS:** speaking, speak, writing, learnt, classify, making, saying, acquire, referring, chatting, passing, related, carries.

**NOUNS:** difference, ability, language, effort, effect, activity, association, school, people, experience, events, essay, friend, e-mail, similar, conversation, notes, friend, communication, speech, writing, degree, context.

**ADJECTIVES:** important, first, conscious, other, self-conscious, happy, successful, communicative, clear, sign[?], social.

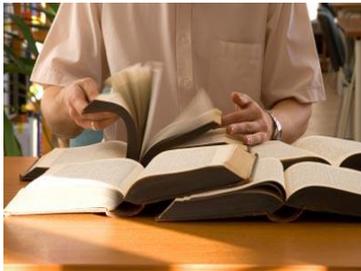
**ADVERBS:** always, impossible, some, categorically,

### STRUCTURE WORDS:-

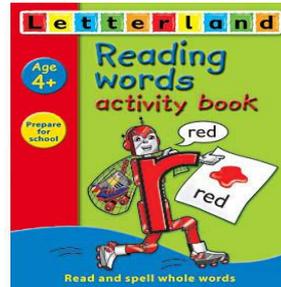
**ARTICLES:** a, an, the.

**AUXILIARY VERBS:** are, be, have.

Other structure words that have been used in the above paragraph include **some** and **any**.



Picture 47



Picture 48

Picture 47

<http://studentpartner.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/reading.jpg>

Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:32 pm.

Picture 48

<http://www.dropshippers.co.za/K92242411-Reading-Words-Activity-Book/Photograph.htm>

Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:34 pm.



Picture 49

[http://www.allposters.it/-sp/Little-Girl-Reading-Book-Posters\\_i3723955\\_.htm](http://www.allposters.it/-sp/Little-Girl-Reading-Book-Posters_i3723955_.htm)

Accessed on 15/02/2011 at 2:36 pm.

READING THE ALTERNATIVE AND OPPOSITE  
MEANINGS OF THE WORDS GIVEN  
(10.4.2)

Time: 10  
mins

We can understand the meaning of words better when we try alternative ways of expressing our ideas, using different words. It is also essential to know the opposite words that can be used for them. It often simplifies our understanding of the text and context when we can make a reference to such words. It also helps you when you need substitutes to avoid repeating the same words while speaking or writing. Here is an exercise that will enable you to understand this better and show you how it helps us to understand a text while reading it.

Let us first define synonyms and antonyms - the terms used for such words.

**SYNONYM:**(syn) A word or phrase that has the same, or nearly the same meaning as another word. **E.g.** *shut* and *close*.

**ANTONYM:**(ant) A word opposite in meaning to another in the same language. **E.g.** *bad* and *good*.

Exercise  
10.4.2

Now attempt the exercise given below by giving more than one synonym and the antonym(if any) of the words listed here. Also, write whether it is a content word or a structure word. The first one has been done for you:

**Encourage** (verb): (syn)hearten, cheer, uplift, inspire, motivate, stimulate; (ant) discourage.

Now do this exercise for the list of words given below.

Difference, happy, successful, conscious, impossible, compare, clear, similar, hard, actual.

## Answers 10.4.2

- Difference** (noun): (syn) contrast, variance, deviation;  
(ant) resemblance, agreement, similar.
- Happy** (adjective): (syn) cheerful, merry, joyful, jolly;  
(ant) unhappy, sad, gloomy.
- Successful** (adjective): (syn) prosperous, famous, eminent;  
(ant) unsuccessful.
- Conscious** (adjective): (syn) aware, awake, deliberate, knowing;  
(ant) unconscious, unaware.
- Impossible** (adjective) (syn) impracticable, unworkable;  
(ant) possible, attainable, reasonable.
- Compare** (verb): (syn) balance, liken, equate.  
(ant) contrast
- Clear** (adjective): (syn) comprehensible, intelligible, plain, uncomplicated,  
lucid, coherent, simple;  
(ant) unclear, vague, cloudy, obscure, obstructed.
- Similar** (adjective): (syn) alike, same;  
(ant) dissimilar, different, unlike.
- Hard** (adjective): (syn) firm, solid, rigid, stiff, tiring, strenuous, laborious,  
industrious, difficult, harsh, forceful;  
(ant) soft, easy, lazy, gentle.
- Actual** (adjective): (syn) real, true, genuine, authentic, confirmed, definite,  
concrete;  
(ant) imaginary.

**READING AND DISCUSSING: JOB  
VACANCIES IN ADVERTISEMENTS  
(10.5)**

Time: 10  
mins

**Exercise  
10.5**

Reading can also be taken as an activity which aims at enhancing the participant's conversational skills. For this choose the advertisements given under Unit 10.3. To further enhance your understanding of the section under consideration each participant should jot down 3 to 4 points that come to his/her mind about why they think they are suitable for the jobs advertised and their questions to the other participants concerning the other participant's job suitability, for which the advertisements are given in Exercise 10.3. This activity can be further extended to reading articles, dialogues, biographies, interviews, advertisements, poems and other kinds of writing. Develop it in the form of a debate over issues that surface on reading it. First, individually and then undertake it as a group activity. Some points may also overlap.



## WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNT?: SUMMING UP

- A poem or a passage in prose can be read in depth to understand the stylistic devices used in it and the finer nuances of the words within the context of what the poem/ passage is conveying.
- Even an advertisement for a job can be read closely to understand for whom the job application is best suited.
- The work that we are reading can be read by marking out separately the content words(main verbs, nouns, adjectives, adverbs) and structure words ( articles, auxiliary verbs, any and some etc) used in it.
- Words can have another meanings and opposite meanings, so while reading we should refer mre often to a possible list of synonyms and antonyms that a given word may have.
- Reading can be undertaken as an activity to enhance the participant's conversational skills. This can be done by asking each person to make a list of a few points/ questions/ issues that come to their mind while reading a given article/poem etc.

## Links for Images

Picture 46

[http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Celine\\_Dion\\_Concert\\_Singing\\_Taking\\_Chances\\_2008.jpg](http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/42/Celine_Dion_Concert_Singing_Taking_Chances_2008.jpg)

Picture47

<http://studentpartner.files.wordpress.com/2011/01/reading.jpg>

Picture48

[http://www.letterland.com/images/shop/product\\_images/mainImage/5FA6FCBB55D09FC04.jpg](http://www.letterland.com/images/shop/product_images/mainImage/5FA6FCBB55D09FC04.jpg)

Picture49

[http://imagecache01a.allposters.com/images/pic/JUPPOD/020122\\_12760014\\_Ishs-FB~Little-Girl-Reading-Book-Posters.jpg](http://imagecache01a.allposters.com/images/pic/JUPPOD/020122_12760014_Ishs-FB~Little-Girl-Reading-Book-Posters.jpg)

## Links for Videos:

Video 9

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SRbTg5M4tMk>