

Chapter 29. Reading Skills

Exercise 1. Read the passage given below.

The Statue of Liberty, holding high the torch of liberty is one of the greatest wonders of modern times. It stands on the Liberty Island near the New York City. The hugeness of its size astounds human imagination. The 46m high statue stands on a pedestal 47m high, so the tip of the torch is 93m above the ground. The statue weighs 204.1 metric tonnes (2,04,100 kg). The crown on the head of the statue has seven rays, which stand for rays of freedom spreading across seven seas to the seven continents. Inside the statue, there is a spiral staircase, which enables visitors to climb upto the crown. If you reach the crown, it would be like climbing up the stairs of a 12-storey building.



The Statue of Liberty was built in France towards the end of the nineteenth century. It was formally presented to the American ambassador in 1884 as a gift from the French people to the American people. It was then taken into pieces, packed in crates and shipped to New York, where the pieces were rejoined to make the statue.

A. Tick (✓) the correct options:

- The Statue of Liberty was built in
 - France
 - U.S.A.
 - U.K.
- The height of the pedestal on which the Statue stands is
 - 46m
 - 47m
 - 93m

3. The seven rays stand for
a. peace b. love c. freedom
4. The Statue was brought to New York
a. in two pieces—the pedestal and the statue
b. in three pieces—the pedestal, the statue and the crown
c. in several pieces

B. Answer the following questions:

1. How far can the visitors climb up the Statue? How do they climb upto that point?

2. How was the Statue of Liberty transported to New York?

C. Find words from the passage which mean the following:

1. a high column to support a statue _____
2. to surprise greatly _____

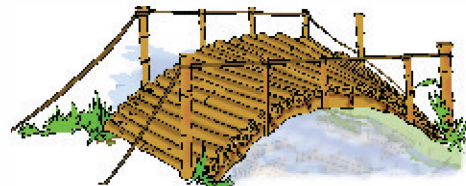
Exercise 2. Read the passage given below.

The bamboo plant is abundantly found in the North-East and the Western Ghats of India. It can grow as tall as 37m and its trunk can have a diameter of 30cm. So it is hard to believe that it is actually a kind of grass, belonging to the same family to which wheat, rice and sugarcane belong.

The bamboo is one of the world's most useful plants. Farmers often live in bamboo houses, sleep on bamboo mats and eat from bamboo bowls. They wear sandals woven from bamboo strips. They keep their chickens in bamboo cages. They water their crops with pipes made from hollow bamboo stalks. Many tribal people eat bamboo seeds instead of rice. Pickle prepared from young bamboo shoots is thought to be a delicacy.

The bamboo has other uses too. It is strong enough to be used in building bridges. Furniture designed from bamboo is as elegant as wooden furniture but is lighter and less expensive. Bamboo is also used to make tools and weapons.

However, we are now in danger of losing bamboo on account of over-cutting of bamboo forests, particularly in the hilly areas of the North-East.



1. Now answer the following questions:

a. To what plant family does the bamboo belong?

b. Why is it difficult to accept it as a member of that family?

c. What other plants of the same family are mentioned in the passage?

2. Mention any four things made from the bamboo plant that can be used by the farmers.

3. a. What is a delicacy?

b. What delicacy do we get from the bamboo plant?

4. Your father wants to buy new furniture for the drawing room. You want him to buy bamboo furniture. Which two arguments would you give him?

a. _____

b. _____

5. If over-cutting of bamboo forests continues, which class of people would be worst sufferers?

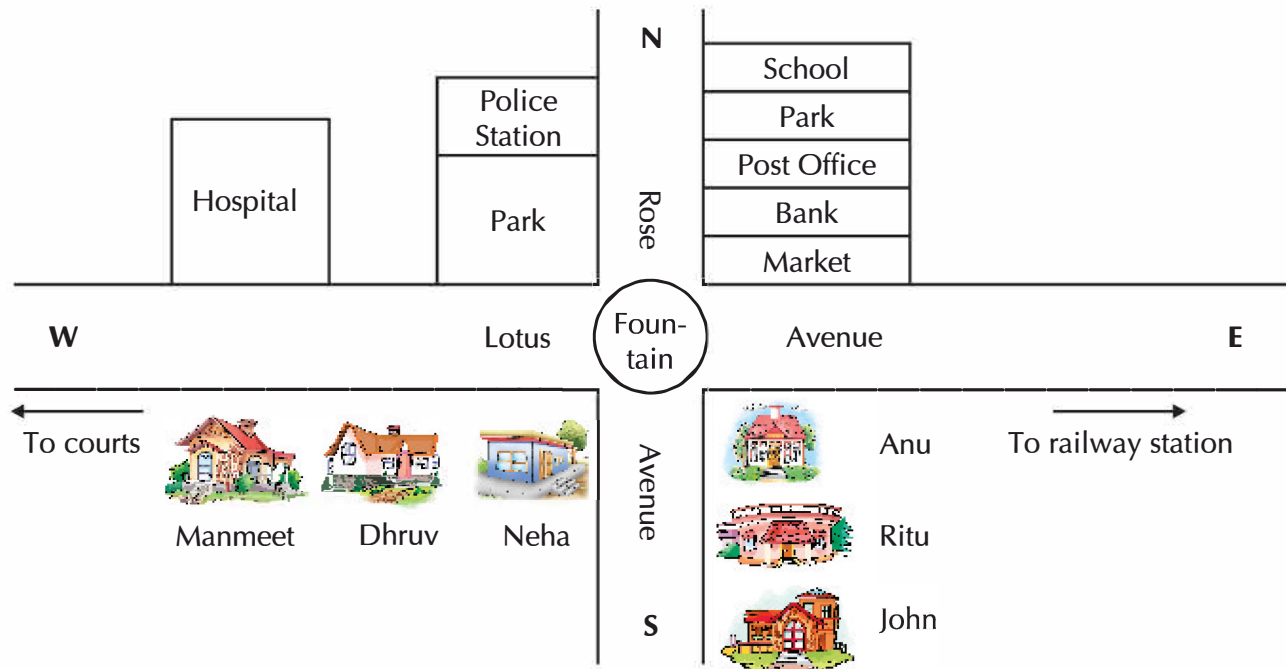
6. Find words from the passage which mean the following:

a. graceful and attractive to look at _____

b. in larger numbers _____

c. costly _____

Exercise 3. Here is a map of a part of Prem Nagar:



A. Answer these questions:

1. Who are Ritu's next-door neighbours?

2. What two buildings stand next to the market?

3. In what direction does Manmeet go to visit Dhruv?

4. What two places does the Lotus Avenue connect?

5. Who lives west of Neha?

B. Write T for true statements and F for false statements.

1. The bank is in front of the market.
2. As we drive from the railway station towards the hospital, the market is to our right.
3. John is Anu's next-door neighbour.
4. The hospital is on the western side of the city.
5. Anu lives nearer to the fountain than Manmeet.
6. Ritu lives on Rose Avenue.
7. A straight road runs between the railway station and the school.

C. Fill in the blanks to make these statements true.

1. _____ and _____ live nearest to the school.
2. The _____ is across the street from Manmeet's house.
3. The police station faces the _____ Avenue.
4. Ritu and Dhruv live on the _____ sides of the Rose Avenue.
5. The _____ Avenue leads to the railway station.
6. Dhruv's house is on _____ Avenue.
7. _____, Ritu and _____ live on the same side of the _____.