

LESSON - 2



THE KABULIWALLAH



Little Mini was five years old and a great chatterbox. She simply could not live without chatting all the time. Her mother was often worried about this non stop talking of Mini, and tried to silence her. Her conversation with her father was always very lively.

One day, Mini burst into her father's study room. She put her arm around him and said, "What do you think, Father? Bhola says there is an elephant in the clouds who blows water out of its trunk and that is why it rains!". Before her father could reply she ran to the window, "Ae Kabuliwallah! Ae Kabuliwallah!"

Mini called out to the Kabuliwallah but when he looked at her, she was in terror and ran to her father. She had heard that Kabuliwallahs caught children, put them in their sacks and took them away. The Kabuliwallah came to Mini's house and her father made

sure that Mini came out and met him. Soon Mini lost her fear of him and it was a joy to watch the big bearded Pathan talking tenderly to the little five-year-old.

The Kabuliwallah was now a daily visitor to Mini's house. They would sit and chat for hours and crack jokes with each other. Once a year, Rehman, for that was the Kabuliwallah's name, would go back to his own country. He would first collect all the money that people owed him before he left. Although Rehman was busy, he always found time to visit little Mini.

One day there was a lot of noise in the street. Rehman had stabbed a man who owed him money. For this crime he was sent to prison.



Time passed and Mini soon forgot her old friend, the Kabuliwallah. She grew up into a very pretty woman. Her father made arrangements for Mini's wedding. Mini was getting married that night. As the father was busy in the preparations, a man came upto him and saluted respectfully. At first he did not recognise him. Soon he realised, it was old Rehman, the Kabuliwallah. Mini's father told him that the marriage ceremonies are going on and he should come on another day.

He was about to leave when he turned around and said, "May I see the little one , sir?"

He still thought of Mini as a little girl who came running to him and calling,

“Kabuliwallah, O! Kabuliwallah.” He thought they would talk and laugh as they used to do long ago.

Mini’s father told him again that the marriage ceremonies are going on. The Kabuliwallah then gave him a small packet of dried raisins, nuts and almonds for Mini and said, “Give these to the little one. I too have a little one like her and I think of her and bring you this fruit.”

Mini’s father could not control his tears. He realised that the poor Kabuliwallah was also a father. He called Mini, who came out dressed as a bride. The Kabuliwallah was shocked to see that Mini, the little girl he had known had grown into a beautiful woman. He suddenly realised that his own daughter would have grown up too and broke into tears. Mini’s father took out some money and gave it to Rehman and said, " Go and see your daughter and may you have all the happiness."

Mini's father had to cut down the expenses of the wedding. He could not afford the millitary band and the electric lights but he was happy that his money had helped a long-lost father meet his only child once again.

-Adopted from the story 'Kabuliwallah' by Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore

New Words

Word	Meaning
chatterbox	बातूनी
bursting -	अचानक घुसना
bearded -	दाढीवाला
stabbed -	छुरा घोंपना
prison -	जेल
ceremonies	-रस्में
raisins	-किशमिश

Comprehension Questions

1. Answer the following questions:

- a. Why was Mini called a chatterbox?
- b. Why was Mini afraid of the Kabuliwallah?
- c. Why was the Kabuliwallah arrested?
- d. Why was the Kabuliwallah shocked to see Mini?
- e. What did Mini's father give him?
- f. Mention the human qualities that you observe in the story.

2. Tick for the correct statements and cross for the wrong statements:

- a. Mini could not live without chatting all the time.
- b. Rehman was a big bearded pathan.
- c. Mini did not forget the Kabuliwallah.
- d. Mini's father did not help Rehman with some money.
- e. Mini's father had to cut down the expenses of the wedding. ()

Word Power

1. Fill in the blanks with the words given in the box:

afford, suddenly, sacks, stabbed, owed

- a. We keep grains in ___
- b. My friend ___ me one thousand rupees.
- c. Tom ___ Mary in the back.
- d. A dog _ jumped at Ankit.
- e. Don't spend more than you can ___ .

2. Suggest a suitable word from the given box for each of the following sentences:

optimist, democracy, patriot, chatterbox, literate

Example:

A person who can read and write - **literate**

- a. A person who talks too much -
- b. A person who loves his country -
- c. A government by the people
- d. A person who looks at the bright side of the thing -

Language Practice

1. Read and understand:

*Conjunctions are words used to join two words or sentences together.

Some of the common conjunctions are- and, because, but, or and so.

'and' is used to mean also or in addition to.

'because' is used to express the reason of an action.

'but' is used to suggest and contrast.

'or' is used to suggest that only one possibility can be realized.

'so' is used to show the reason for something.

Now choose the correct conjunction given in the brackets and fill in the blanks:

a. You had a long day. Go _____ rest for a while. (and / but / or)

b. We could not buy the medicine _____ all the shops were closed.
(because / so / or)

c. I went to bed early _____ I couldn't watch the T.V. show last night.
(or / so / but)

d. The stick was thin _____ it was strong. (or / but / and)

e. You can have a tea _____ a coffee. (and / or / so)

2. Put a suitable word in each blank to match the part of speech indicated in the bracket:

a. Mrs. Verma took _____ son to school. (pronoun)

c. The child has a flower _____ his hand. (preposition)

d. The _____ soldier fought for his country. (adjective)

e. He always did his work very _____. (adverb)

Activity

Let's Talk and Write

» Talk to your family members about their likes and dislikes related to food, clothing, animal, place etc., and write them in your notebook.