

Read to understand

A. Answer these questions with reference to the context.

1. '... you do not give him a fair chance'

a) Who said this and to whom?

Ans: The lady said to Jakes.

b) Why did the speaker feel so?

Ans: The speaker felt so because Black Beauty was not able to use all his power because of the check rein in his head.

c) What happened once a 'fair chance' was given?

Ans: When a fair chance was given to him he used all his strength and pulled the load steadily up the hill.

2. '...for he was just going to hitch it up again.'

a) Who does 'he' refer here?

Ans: He refers to Jakes.

b) What was 'he' going to 'hitch up again'? Why?

Ans: Jakes was going to hitch check rein again because he did not want to be a laughing stock of all the carters.

3. 'Is it not better to lead a good fashion than to follow a bad one?'

a) What is the 'bad fashion' referred to here?

Ans: The 'bad fashion' referred to here is to put check rein on.

b) What is the 'good fashion' recommended?

Ans: The 'good fashion' recommended here is not to put check rein and let the horse be free.

B. State whether these statements are facts (F) or opinions (O). Support the facts with evidence from the text.

1. I am sure that he is doing his best. (O)

2. I often had to pull a heavier load than I should. (F)

Evidence: One day, he was loaded more than usual.

3. Jakes was sensible, but the foreman overruled him. (O)

4. Jakes always put the check rein on, which prevented me from pulling easily. (F)

Evidence: I pulled with all my strength, but it was impossible to go on.

5. I am sure he is a fine-tempered creature, and I dare say has known better days. (F)

Evidence: He was quite willing to pull the load when he was given chance.

C. Answer these questions briefly.

1. What two things made it difficult for Black Beauty to pull the load?

Ans: i) The heavy loads.

ii) The steep uphill route

2. Who came to Black Beauty's rescue when he was being flogged by Jakes? What advice did the person give Jakes?

Ans: A friendly looking lady came to Black Beauty's rescue when he was being flogged by Jakes.

She advised not to whip his good horse anymore and take off the check rein.

3. Why had the foreman doubled the weight? What was ironical about it? (A situation is ironical when exactly the opposite of what is intended or expected happens.)

Ans: The foreman doubled the weight to save him trouble. But the irony was that it was impossible for him to go on with such a heavy loads on a steep uphill road.

Expand words

A. Match these laugh idioms with their meanings.

1. to be a laughing stock--- b) to be the object of other's jokes
2. to be a bundle of laughs---- a) to laugh hard and loud
3. to be no laughing matter -----d) a serious matter, not something to be joked about
4. to have the last laugh----- c) to succeed when others thought you would not
5. to laugh your head off ----- e) to be enjoyable and entertaining

B. Now use the idioms in these sentences. Make changes wherever needed.

Ans:

1. laughed their heads off
2. bundles of laughs
3. a laughing stock
4. has the last laugh
5. no laughing matter

Say it right

Q. Match the sentences with the meanings stated in column B as expressed by the varying stress.

1. I b) Rather, I said that you must leave.
2. did not e) I never said that.
3. say a) I might have indicated it, but I never spoke the words.
4. you c) Someone else can leave, but not you.
5. can f) Someone else might have told you to do so.
6. leave d) I said you can do something else, but not leave.

Grammar

A. Cross out the incorrect conjunctions in these sentences.

1. Was it a dream (and)× or✓) was it real?
2. It is cold today (since)× while✓) it rained last night.
3. I tried learning Spanish (but✓ until×) it was difficult.
4. The team is celebrating (though× since✓) it was won the match.
5. She had the ice cream (but× even though✓) she had a sore throat.

B. Underline the clauses in these sentences. Then state whether they are simple (S), compound (Cp), or complex (Cx).

1. The forest is so silent. (S)
2. I can't wait to go back someday. (S)
3. I have been to many wildlife sanctuaries. (S)
4. Dawn was breaking when we reached Satpura. (Cx)
5. I took my binoculars so I could see even the smallest birds. (Cp)
6. We emerged from the bush relieved though a bit disappointed. (Cx)
7. My carter, Jakes, was sensible, but the foreman overruled him. (Cp)
8. I loved the boat ride, but I was very nervous about the crocodile. (Cp)

