

Atomic Energy Education Society, Mumbai

Book: Honeycomb; Chapter: 9

A Bicycle in good repair

-Jerome K Jerome



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'THE FIRST HALF' – WHAT IS THERE TO READ?

One of the friends of the author suggested that the two should go for a bicycle ride the next day. The author reached the place half an hour before his friend and was waiting for him in the garden. The author's friend enquired about his bicycle and called it "good looking". The author replied that it went easy in the morning but got a little stiff in the afternoon. Soon, the man gave it a shake holding its front wheel and the fork, shaking it violently. This was followed by taking out the front wheel of the cycle while the author was away for a while looking for a hammer. He was found twiddling it round between his fingers with all its parts lying on the gravel path beside him.



'THE FIRST HALF' – WHAT IS THERE TO READ?

The author, unsure and anxious, insisted on putting on the various parts of cycle in place, but his friend wanted to check the front wheel. He unscrewed something somewhere and out came around almost a dozen of ball bearings, making the matter worse. His friend again insisted that the author must collect all of them or else the bicycle might not get back to its old condition. Both of them collected around sixteen of them and kept those in his hat. This made the entire situation more complicated.



DIFFICULT WORDS & MEANINGS

A man I knew proposed one evening we should go for a long bicycle ride together on the following day, and I agreed. I got up early, for me; I made an effort, and was pleased with myself. He came half an hour late; I was waiting for him in the garden. It was a lovely day. He said, "That's a good-looking machine of yours. How does it run?" "Oh, like most of them!" I answered; "easily enough in the morning; goes a little stiffly after lunch." He caught hold of it by the front wheel and the fork, and shook it violently. I said, "Don't do that; you'll hurt it." I did not see why he should shake it; it had not done anything to him. Besides, if it wanted shaking, I was the proper person to shake it. I felt much as I should had he started whacking my dog.

SL NO	WORDS	MEANINGS
1	PROPOSED	SUGGESTED
2	AGREED	HELD THE SAME VIEW
3	PLEASED	DELIGHTED
4	STIFFLY	NOT SMOOTHLY
5	VIOLENTLY	STRONGLY
6	SHAKE	TREMBLE
7	WHACKING	STRIKE HARD WITH A RESOUNDING BLOW

DIFFICULT WORDS & MEANINGS

He said, "This front wheel wobbles." I said, "It doesn't if you don't wobble it." It didn't wobble, as a matter of fact—nothing worth calling a wobble. He said, "This is dangerous; have you got a hammer?" I ought to have been firm, but I thought that perhaps he really did know something about the business. I went to the tool shed to see what I could find. When I came back he was sitting on the ground with the front wheel between his legs. He was playing with it, twiddling it round between his fingers; the remnant of the machine was lying on the gravel path beside him. He said, "It looks to me as if the bearings were all wrong." I said, "Don't you trouble about it any more; you will make yourself tired. Let us put it back and get off."

SL NO	WORDS/PHRASAL VERB	MEANINGS
1	WOBBLE	UNSTEADY MOVEMENT
2	WORTH	VALUABLE
3	DANGEROUS	THREATENING
4	FIRM	STRICT
5	TWIDDLING	SWIVELLING
6	REMNANTS	REMAINS
7	GRAVEL	STONY
8	BEARINGS / BALL BEARINGS	SMALL METAL BALL OR A NUMBER OF METAL BALLS ARRANGED IN A RING TO MAKE PARTICULAR PARTS OF A MACHINE
9	TROUBLE	DIFFICULTY
10	GET OFF	LEAVE A WORK

DIFFICULT WORDS & MEANINGS

He said, "We may as well see what is the matter with it, now it is out." He talked as though it had dropped out by accident. Before I could stop him he had unscrewed something somewhere, and out rolled all over the path some dozen or so little balls. "Catch 'em!" he shouted; "catch 'em! We mustn't lose any of them." He was quite excited about them. We grovelled round for half an hour, and found sixteen. He said he hoped we had got them all, because, if not, it would make a serious difference to the machine. I put them for safety in my hat. It was not a sensible thing to do, I admit.

SL NO	WORDS	MEANINGS
1	UNSCREWED	REMOVED A SCREW
2	ROLLED	ROTATE
3	GROVELLED	CRAWLED FACING DOWNWARDS
4	SENSIBLE	PRACTICAL