

The Little Girl

MODULE 4/4

HANDOUT

Thinking about the language:

1. Synonyms

Look at the following sentence:-

There was a glad sense of relief when she heard the noise of the carriage growing fainter...

Here, *glad* means being happy about something.

Glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled and overjoyed are synonyms.

(Words or expressions that have the same or nearly the same meaning)

However, they express happiness in certain ways.

Read the sentences below.

- She was *glad* when the meeting was over.
- The chief guest was *pleased* to announce the name of the winner.

Glad, happy, pleased, delighted, thrilled and overjoyed are synonyms.

Use an appropriate word from the synonyms given above in the following sentences. Clues are given in brackets.

- (i) She was _____ by the news of her brother's wedding. (very pleased)
 - (ii) I was _____ to be invited to the party. (extremely pleased and excited about)
 - (iii) She was _____ at the birth of her granddaughter. (extremely happy)
 - (iv) The coach was _____ with his performance. (satisfied about)
 - (v) She was very _____ with her results. (happy about something that has happened)
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- It should be noted that words do not exist in isolation; they take a certain meaning in a given context.

Now, consult a dictionary and find out the meaning of *big* in the following sentences. The first one has been done for you.

- (i) You are a big girl now. (*You are older now.*)
- (ii) Today you are going to take the biggest decision of your career.
- (iii) Their project is full of big ideas.
- (iv) Cricket is a big game in our country.
- (v) I am a big fan of Lata Mangeshkar.
- (vi) You have to cook a bit more as my friend is a big eater.
- (vii) What a big heart you've got, Father dear.

2. Verbs of Reporting

We report or quote what someone has said or thought by using a reporting verb.

Underline the verbs of reporting in the following sentences.

- (i) He says he will enjoy the ride.
- (ii) Father mentioned that he was going on a holiday.
- (iii) No one told us that the shop was closed.
- (iv) He answered that the price would go up.
- (v) "Sit up", he ordered.

We use verbs of reporting to advise, order, report statements, to express thoughts, intentions, pose questions, make requests etc., viz.—

....Were complaining

Shouted

Replied

Remarked

Ordered, suggested etc.

3. Speaking:

Discuss with your sister/brother about the possibility of a repetition of the story "The Little Girl" in our homes in India. Do you recall anything eerily similar? Can you speak about it?

4. Writing:

Write three or four paragraphs (200 words) on the following:

Do you have a changed understanding of the behaviour of your own parents now, compared to their behaviour during your primary school days?
