Chapter 4: The Wise Parrot

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Exercise 4.1 — Answer the following questions

Q1 Why did the merchant keep the parrot in a cage of gold?

SOLUTION

The parrot was very dear to the merchant and was his beloved pet.
Keeping the parrot in a golden cage showed how much the merchant valued it.

Answer: The merchant kept the parrot in a golden cage because it was his beloved pet and he cared for it greatly.

Q2 What made the parrot a favourite pet of the merchant?

SOLUTION

The parrot had a sharp mind and was bright and talkative.
It entertained the merchant with stories and songs.

Answer: The parrot entertained the merchant with stories and songs, and its sharp, talkative nature made it a favourite pet.

Q3 What message did the parrot ask the merchant to convey to its friends?

SOLUTION

The parrot could not get its wish to fly free, so it asked the merchant to pass on a greeting.
The parrot asked the merchant to tell its friends in the jungle that it sends them greetings from its cage.

Answer: The parrot asked the merchant to tell its friends in the jungle that it sends them greetings from its cage.

Q4 What happened after the merchant gave the message to the parrots?

SOLUTION

The merchant delivered the parrot's message to a flight of parrots he saw in a forest.
As soon as he finished speaking, one parrot dropped like a stone from the tree and fell to the ground.
The merchant was distressed and hurried away.

Answer: One parrot dropped like a stone from the tree and fell to the ground. The merchant was very distressed and hurried away.

Q5 How did the parrot escape from the cage?

SOLUTION

The parrot had received a message through the merchant from its friend in the forest.
The friend showed the parrot a plan — pretend to be dead. The merchant would take the parrot out of the cage and place it somewhere.
When the merchant placed the parrot on the windowsill and stepped back, the parrot stirred, spread its wings, and flew off into the open sky.

Answer: The parrot pretended to be dead. The merchant took it out of the cage and placed it on the windowsill. As soon as the merchant stepped back, the parrot spread its wings and flew away into the open sky.

Exercise 4.2 — Think and discuss

Q1 If you were the merchant, how would you respond to the parrot's request for freedom?

SOLUTION

The merchant loved the parrot very much and could not bear to let it go.
If I were the merchant, I would feel sad but would understand that a bird belongs in the open sky, not in a cage.
I would let the parrot go free, because keeping a living creature locked up is not truly caring for it.

Answer: I would feel sad but would let the parrot go free, because a bird belongs in the open sky and true care means giving it happiness.

Q2 Can you think of a real-life situation where intelligence is more useful than strength?

SOLUTION

In the story, the parrot used a clever idea instead of trying to break free by force.
In real life too, intelligence can solve problems that strength cannot — for example, solving a tricky maths puzzle, or finding a peaceful way to end an argument.

Answer: Yes — solving a difficult puzzle or settling an argument peacefully needs intelligence, not strength. Just like the parrot in the story, thinking cleverly can work better than using force.

Q3 Which parrot from the chapter was actually 'wise' according to you? Give reasons for your answer.

SOLUTION

The parrot in the cage was actually wise.
It understood the hidden meaning of the forest parrot's action — that pretending to be dead was the way to escape.
It used this clever idea to trick the merchant into taking it out of the cage.
By using intelligence rather than force, it earned its freedom.

Answer: The parrot in the cage was truly wise. It understood the forest parrot's message and used the same clever trick to escape, showing that intelligence can achieve what strength cannot.

Exercise 4.3 — New Words

Q1 Give the meaning of the word: merchant

SOLUTION

A merchant is a person who buys and sells goods, especially one who travels to trade.

Answer: A person who buys and sells goods for a living; a trader.

Q2 Give the meaning of the word: tender

SOLUTION

Tender means soft and easy to bite or eat; it also means gentle and kind.

Answer: Soft, gentle; (of food) soft and easy to eat.

Q3 Give the meaning of the word: distressed

SOLUTION

Distressed means feeling very worried, upset, or sad.

Answer: Very worried, upset, or sad.

Q4 Give the meaning of the word: perch

SOLUTION

A perch is a small bar or branch inside a cage on which a bird rests or sits.

Answer: A bar or branch inside a cage or on a tree where a bird sits.

Q5 Give the meaning of the word: windowsill

SOLUTION

A windowsill is the flat ledge at the bottom of a window, on the outside or inside.

Answer: The flat ledge at the bottom of a window frame.

Q6 Give the meaning of the word: sighed

SOLUTION

Sighed means let out a long, deep breath to show sadness, tiredness, or disappointment.

Answer: Let out a long deep breath showing sadness or disappointment.

Exercise 4.4 — Fill in the blanks with suitable phrases

Q1 Fill in the blanks with suitable phrases from the box (stand upright, all over, look after, stepped out, went away, came across, about to) to make a meaningful paragraph:
'One winter morning, as I _____ of my home, I saw that the snow was _____ the place. While walking uphill towards my shop, I _____ a small puppy. Its leg was injured and it was _____ collapse. Being in pain it was unable to _____. So, I decided to take it home and _____ it. With good care, all its pain _____ .'

SOLUTION

Blank 1: stepped out
Blank 2: all over
Blank 3: came across
Blank 4: about to
Blank 5: stand upright
Blank 6: look after
Blank 7: went away

Answer: 1. stepped out 2. all over 3. came across 4. about to 5. stand upright 6. look after 7. went away

Exercise 4.5 — Collective nouns — Complete the sentences

Q1 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: A _____ of parrots came to the forest.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for parrots (and many birds in flight) is 'flight'.
This is the worked example given in the textbook.

Answer: flight

Q2 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: I saw a _____ of sheep in the fields.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for sheep is 'flock'.

Answer: flock

Q3 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: A _____ of wolves was howling loudly.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for wolves is 'pack'.

Answer: pack

Q4 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: We gave a _____ of flowers to the chief guest.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for flowers given as a gift is 'bouquet'.

Answer: bouquet

Q5 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: A _____ of bees hovered around the flowers.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for bees is 'swarm'.

Answer: swarm

Q6 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: An _____ of ants is moving towards the anthill.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for ants is 'army'.

Answer: army

Q7 Complete the sentence with the correct collective noun: I helped my mother find a _____ of keys.

SOLUTION

The correct collective noun for keys is 'bunch'.

Answer: bunch

Exercise 4.6 — Present perfect tense — Complete the sentences

Q1 Complete the sentence using present perfect tense: I _____ (visit) Delhi many times. It is a city with many historical sites.

SOLUTION

Present perfect tense: Subject + have/has + past participle.
'I' takes 'have'; 'visit' → 'visited'.

Answer: I have visited Delhi many times.

Q2 Complete the sentence using present perfect tense: My friend Onshangla is an artist. She _____ (draw) pictures of ten monuments.

SOLUTION

'She' takes 'has'; 'draw' → 'drawn'.

Answer: She has drawn pictures of ten monuments.

Q3 Complete the sentence using present perfect tense: Mr. Joon _____ (buy) a new car.

SOLUTION

'Mr. Joon' takes 'has'; 'buy' → 'bought'.

Answer: Mr. Joon has bought a new car.

Q4 Complete the sentence using present perfect tense: I _____ (complete) my homework and my brother _____ (revise) for his test.

SOLUTION

'I' takes 'have'; 'complete' → 'completed'.
'My brother' takes 'has'; 'revise' → 'revised'.

Answer: I have completed my homework and my brother has revised for his test.

Q5 Complete the sentence using present perfect tense: They _____ (write) letters to their friends.

SOLUTION

'They' takes 'have'; 'write' → 'written'.

Answer: They have written letters to their friends.