# Chapter 8: The Decision of the Panchayat

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## Exercise 8.1 — Answer the following questions

**Q1** Why did the farmer buy the well?

SOLUTION

The farmer had fields and needed a source of water for them.
When he bought a new field, there was a well next to it, so he bought the well from his neighbour to use for irrigation.

Answer: The farmer bought the well because he needed a source of water for his fields.

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**Q2** Why did the farmer become upset?

SOLUTION

After the farmer bought the well, his cunning neighbour refused to let him take water from it.
The neighbour claimed he had sold only the well, not the water, so the water still belonged to him.
This meant the farmer could not use the well he had paid for, which made him very worried and upset.

Answer: The farmer became upset because his neighbour refused to let him take water from the well, saying he had sold only the well and not the water.

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**Q3** How did the Panchayat solve the problem?

SOLUTION

The Panchayat listened carefully to both sides.
They agreed that only the well had been sold, not the water.
Then they turned the neighbour's own argument against him: if the water was still his, he had no right to keep it inside someone else's well.
The neighbour was told to remove the water or use it up immediately, or else the water would belong to the farmer as the owner of the well.

Answer: The Panchayat told the neighbour that if the water was his, he must remove it from the farmer's well immediately, or it would become the farmer's property.

Q4 What was the final judgment given by the Panchayat?

SOLUTION

The village chief agreed that only the well had been sold.

However, since the neighbour had not sold the water, he had no right to keep his water in the farmer's well.

The judgment was: remove the water or use it all up at once, or the water would belong to the owner of the well.

The neighbour also had to pay a fine and apologise to the farmer.

Answer: The Panchayat ruled that since the neighbour had not sold the water, he must remove it from the farmer's well immediately or the water would belong to the farmer. The neighbour was also fined and had to apologise.

## Exercise 8.2 — Think and discuss

Q1 Do you think the decision of the Panchayat was correct?

SOLUTION

Yes, the decision was correct.
The Panchayat used clever and fair reasoning: if the neighbour truly owned the water, he could not keep it in someone else's well without the owner's permission.
The judgment punished the dishonest neighbour without breaking any rule, and it protected the farmer's rights.

Answer: Yes, the decision was correct. The Panchayat used the neighbour's own argument against him wisely and fairly, protecting the honest farmer.

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Q2 You have an extra painting box which you wish to share with your friends in the class to complete an activity. Two of your best friends, Radha and Sita, fight for the box. How would you deal with the situation so that you are fair to both of them?

SOLUTION

I would ask both Radha and Sita to share the box by taking turns.
For example, Radha could use it for the first half of the activity and Sita for the second half.
Or I could sit with both of them and pass the box between them so neither feels left out.
This way both friends get to use the box and no one is treated unfairly.

Answer: I would ask Radha and Sita to share the box by taking turns — each using it for part of the activity — so both friends are treated fairly.

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Q3 Who said to whom: (a) 'I sold only the well, not the water.' (b) 'Remove the water or use it all up immediately.' (c) 'He is not letting me take the water.'

SOLUTION

(a) The cunning neighbour said this to the farmer (and later repeated it before the Panchayat).
(b) The village chief said this to the neighbour, as part of the Panchayat's judgment.
(c) The farmer said this to the village chief when he went to complain about his neighbour.

Answer: (a) The neighbour said to the farmer. (b) The village chief said to the neighbour. (c) The farmer said to the village chief.

## Exercise 8.3 — Match the words with their meanings

Q1 Match the words with their meanings:

1. prospered 2. cunning 3. worried 4. summon 5. adamant 6. judgment

a. clever in a tricky way b. refusing to change one's mind c. to order someone to come to a particular place d. a decision made by a group e. very upset f. to grow wealthy

SOLUTION

1. prospered → f. to grow wealthy
2. cunning → a. clever in a tricky way
3. worried → e. very upset
4. summon → c. to order someone to come to a particular place
5. adamant → b. refusing to change one's mind
6. judgment → d. a decision made by a group

Answer: 1→f, 2→a, 3→e, 4→c, 5→b, 6→d

## Exercise 8.4 — Fill in the blanks with the correct prepositions

Q1 The farmer went ..... the village chief to explain his problem.

SOLUTION

'Went to' is the correct phrase — it means the farmer went in the direction of the village chief.

Answer: to

Q2 The neighbour was standing ..... the well, blocking the way.

SOLUTION

'At the well' means he was positioned at that location.

Answer: at

Q3 The villagers tried to reason ..... the cunning man.

SOLUTION

'Reason with someone' is the correct phrase — it means to talk to someone to persuade them.

Answer: with

Q4 The decision was made ..... careful consideration of both sides.

SOLUTION

'After careful consideration' means the decision came following careful thought.

Answer: after

Q5 There lived a farmer ..... the small village.

SOLUTION

'In the small village' means inside/within the village.

Answer: in

Q6 The Panchayat members listened to both the sides ..... coming to a decision.

SOLUTION

'Before coming to a decision' means they listened first, then decided.

Answer: before

Q7 The villagers gathered at the Panchayat ..... the banyan tree.

SOLUTION

'Under the banyan tree' — the text says the Panchayat met under the banyan tree in the centre of the village.

Answer: under

Q8 The neighbour was punished ..... his dishonesty.

SOLUTION

'For his dishonesty' — 'for' shows the reason for the punishment.

Answer: for

Q9 The chief listened carefully ..... both the farmer and the neighbour.

SOLUTION

'Listened to both' — 'to' follows 'listened' when indicating who is being listened to.

Answer: to

Q10 The villagers agreed to meet ..... a later time to discuss the issue.

SOLUTION

'At a later time' — 'at' is used with points in time.

Answer: at

Q11 The farmer decided to buy a well ..... buying his third field.

SOLUTION

The story says: 'When he prospered, he bought another field. There was a well next to it... he bought the well.' So the farmer bought the well AFTER buying his (third) field.

Answer: after

## Exercise 8.5 — Rearrange the events in the correct order

Q1 Rearrange the following events in the correct order:

1. Sam sat by a small stream to rest and enjoy the peaceful sound of the water.
2. Sam felt grateful for the time he spent in nature.
3. Sam decided to go for a walk in the forest near his house.
4. Sam walked along the narrow path, listening to the sound of birds chirping and leaves rustling.
5. After resting, Sam continued his walk, feeling refreshed.

SOLUTION

Step 1: Sam decided to go for a walk in the forest near his house. (Event 3 — the decision to go)

Step 2: Sam walked along the narrow path, listening to the sound of birds chirping and leaves rustling. (Event 4 — the walk begins)

Step 3: Sam sat by a small stream to rest and enjoy the peaceful sound of the water. (Event 1 — he stops to rest)

Step 4: After resting, Sam continued his walk, feeling refreshed. (Event 5 — he walks again)

Step 5: Sam felt grateful for the time he spent in nature. (Event 2 — the final feeling)

Answer: Correct order: 3 → 4 → 1 → 5 → 2