

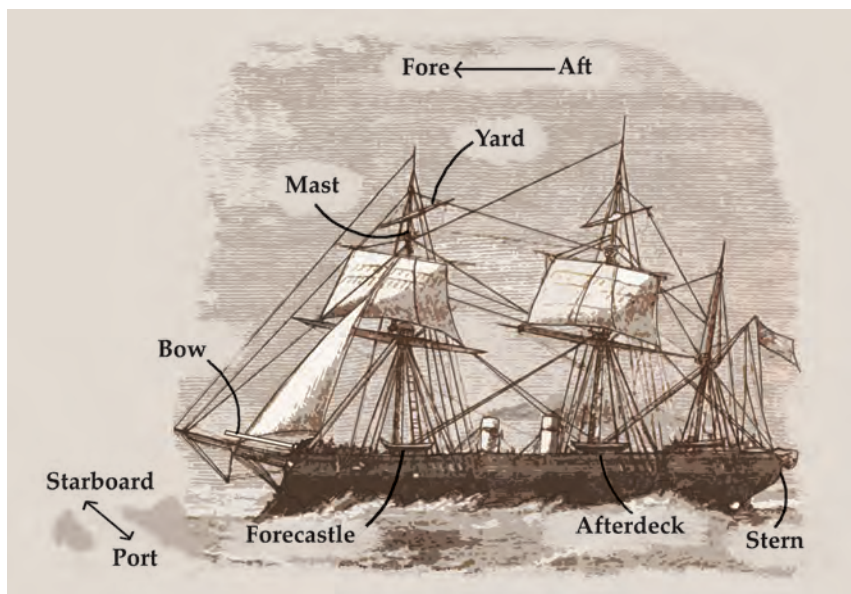
4.3 Chasing the Sea Monster



Jules Verne, a French writer is known as the 'Father of Science Fiction'. He wrote about rockets, space travel and submarines when such things were unknown.

In this passage, from his novel **Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea**, he describes how people on a ship think of the submarine as an animal and try to chase and hunt it.

Certain special words are used to refer to the locations on a ship and to its parts. Read the meanings given below and find the word and the location / part in the picture given below.



Warming up!



- **yard** : a pole slung across a ship's mast. A sail hangs from a yard.
- **mast** : tall, upright pole on a ship
- **bow** : the forward part of the main body of a ship
- **deck** : a floor, flat area built on a ship
- **forecastle** : the forward part of a deck
- **starboard** : the right-hand side of a ship as one faces forward
- **stern** : the rearmost (back) part of a ship
- **afterdeck** : an open deck near the back
- **fore** : the part which is always at the front while the ship is sailing.

CHASING THE SEA MONSTER

Our frigate wanted to go back, but the unearthly animal came at us with a speed double our own. We gasped. More stunned than afraid, we stood mute and motionless. The animal caught up with us, played with us. It made a full circle around the frigate and wrapped us in sheets of electricity that were like luminous dust. At any instant it could have dashed against our ship.

Meanwhile I was surprised to see that our warship was fleeing, not fighting. I commented on this to Commander Farragut. His face, ordinarily so emotionless, showed great astonishment.

“Professor Aronnax,” he answered me, “I don’t know what kind of fearsome creature I’m up against, and I don’t want my frigate running foolish risks in all this darkness. Besides, how should we attack this unknown creature, how should we defend ourselves against it? Let’s wait for daylight and then we’ll play a different role.”

The whole crew stayed on their feet all night long. No one even thought of sleeping. Unable to compete with the monster’s speed, our frigate, the Abraham Lincoln slowed down. For its part, the animal mimicked the frigate, simply rode with the waves, but did not leave the field of battle.

However, near midnight it disappeared, or to use a more appropriate expression, ‘it went out,’ like a huge glowworm. Had it fled from us? We didn’t know and were filled with fear and hope at the same time. But at 12:53 a deafening hiss could be heard, resembling the sound made by a water spout expelled with tremendous intensity.

- Monster : big, scary animal
- frigate : small, speedy ship used in war
- unearthly : strange, not like those found on earth
- stunned : shocked
- mute : unable to speak
- luminous : bright, full of light
- fearsome : scary, frightening
- crew : people working on the ship
- mimicked : imitated

Think and answer :

- ⊗ What is the name of the narrator?
- ⊗ What is the name of the ship?
- ⊗ At what time is this event taking place?

- peering : looking for

- cetaceans : marine animal like a whale

- lurking : hiding

- on the alert : ready, on the lookout

- whaling gear : equipment used to hunt whales.

Guess the meaning of :

- ⊕ astern to port : Use the picture on page 96.

- emerged : came out

By then Commander Farragut, Ned Land, and I were on the afterdeck, peering eagerly into the darkness.

“Tell me, Ned Land, isn’t that the noise cetaceans make when they spurt water from their blowholes?”

“The very noise, sir, but this one’s way louder. So there can be no mistake. There’s definitely a whale lurking in our waters.”

Near two o’clock in the morning, the core of light reappeared, five miles away from the Abraham Lincoln.

We stayed on the alert until daylight, getting ready for action. Whaling gear was set up along the railings. Our chief officer loaded the blunderbusses, which can launch harpoons as far as a mile, and long duck guns with exploding bullets that can wound and kill even the most powerful animals. Ned Land was content to sharpen his harpoon, a dreadful weapon in his hands.

At six o’clock day began to break, and with the dawn’s early light, the animal’s electric glow disappeared. At seven o’clock a very dense morning mist spread around us. Our best spyglasses were unable to pierce it. The outcome: disappointment and anger.

At eight o’clock the mist rolled away, and the horizon grew wider and clearer.

Suddenly, Ned Land’s voice could be heard. “There’s the thing in question, astern to port!” the harpooner shouted. Every eye looked toward the point indicated.

There, a mile and a half from the frigate, a long blackish body emerged a meter above the waves. Quivering violently, its tail was creating a considerable current.

The crew were waiting impatiently for orders from their leader. The latter, after carefully observing the animal, ordered the engineer to sail full steam towards the animal.

Three cheers greeted this order. The hour of battle had sounded.

A few moments later, the Abraham Lincoln headed straight for the animal. Unconcerned, the latter let us come nearer, it got up a little speed, and kept its distance.

This chase dragged on for about three-quarters of an hour without the frigate getting any closer to the sea animal. At this rate, it was obvious that we would never catch up with it.

The Abraham Lincoln gathered speed but so did the animal. This went on for the next hour. The Abraham Lincoln was now speeding so much that its masts trembled down to their blocks.

What a chase! No, I can't describe the excitement that shook my very being. Ned Land stayed at his post, harpoon in hand. Several times the animal let us approach. Then, just as the harpooner was about to strike, the cetacean would steal off swiftly.

Commander Farragut then decided to use more direct methods.

“Bah!” he said. “So that animal is faster than the Abraham Lincoln. All right, Mate, man the gun in the bow!”

Our forecastle cannon was immediately loaded and levelled. The cannoneer fired a shot, but his shell passed some feet above the cetacean, which stayed half a mile off.

“Over to somebody with better aim!” the Commander shouted. “And \$500.00 to the man who can pierce that infernal beast!”

- sail full steam : sail at full speed.

- steal off : move away

- mate : assistant

Guess the meaning of :

- ⊛ ‘cannoneer’.

- armour : metal covering

Guess what order the commander must have given.

- profound : deep

Calm of eye, cool of feature, an old gray-bearded gunner – I can see him to this day – approached the cannon, put it in position, and took aim for a good while. There was a mighty explosion, mingled with cheers from the crew.

The shell reached its target; it hit the animal, but bounced off its rounded surface and vanished into the sea two miles out.

“Oh drat!” said the old gunner in his anger. “That monster must be covered with six-inch armour plate!”

The hunt was on again. Hour after hour went by without the animal showing the least sign of weariness. However, it must be said that we, too, struggled on tirelessly.

At 10:50 in the evening, that electric light reappeared three miles away from the frigate, just as clear and intense as the night before.

The monster seemed motionless. Was it asleep perhaps, weary from its workday, just riding with the waves? This was our chance, and Commander Farragut decided to take full advantage of it. He gave his orders.

The frigate approached without making a sound, stopped two cable lengths from the animal. A profound silence reigned over the deck. We were not 100 feet from the blazing core of light, whose glow grew stronger and dazzled the eyes.



Just then, leaning over the forecastle railing, I saw Ned Land below me, brandishing his dreadful harpoon. Barely twenty feet separated him from the motionless animal.

All at once his arm shot forward and the harpoon was launched. I heard the weapon make a ringing sound as if it had hit some hard substance.

The electric light suddenly went out, and two enormous waterspouts crashed onto the deck of the frigate, racing like a torrent from one end of the ship to the other, toppling crewmen, breaking spare masts and yardarms from their lashings.

A hideous collision occurred, and thrown over the rail with no time to catch hold of it, I was hurled into the sea.

- Adapted from **20,000 Leagues under the Sea** by Jules Verne

• brandishing : moving to and fro

• torrent : huge speedy stream of water

• hurled : thrown



ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. From the passage, find all the words and phrases used to describe the 'monster'.
2. How long does the whole event described in this passage take? Work it out by reading the passage.
3. How did the battle between the ship and the monster end? Find and copy the lines where you find the answer to this question.
4. What attempts did the ship make to defeat the 'monster'? Find and copy lines from the passage describing at least two of the attempts.
5. Find the different units of measurement mentioned in the passage and get more information about them from the internet.
6. Find all the words ending with the suffix '-less'.

TOW

Two minutes of Oral Work

Think of as many words as possible, related to : • the sea • a ship • a battle.

7. Activity : Live English !

रोहा से प्रमार्ग दूरी Changeable distance from Roha		कोंकण रेलवे  Konkan Railway		मांडवी एक्सप्रेस Mandavi Exp IA,2A,3A,SL,II,P	मांडवी एक्सप्रेस Mandavi Exp IA,2A,3A,SL,II,P	कोंकण कन्या एक्सप्रेस Konkan Kanya Exp IA,2A,3A,SL,II,P	कोंकण कन्या एक्सप्रेस Konkan Kanya Exp IA,2A,3A,SL,II,P	नेत्रावती एक्सप्रेस Netravati Exp 2A,3A,SL,II,P	नेत्रावती एक्सप्रेस Netravati Exp 2A,3A,SL,II,P	मत्स्यगंधा एक्सप्रेस Matsyagandha Exp 2A,3A,SL,II	मत्स्यगंधा एक्सप्रेस Matsyagandha Exp 2A,3A,SL,II
km	Station स्टेशन	0103	0104	0111	0112	6345	6346	2619	2620		
	ह. निजामुद्दीन / H.Nizamuddin	↓	↑	↓	↑						
	जयपुर / Jaipur										
	ओखा / Okha										
	गांधीधाम / Gandhidham										
	हाप्पा / Hapa										
	पुणे / Pune										
	मुंबई छ. शि.म.ट./Mumbai CSMT	7.05	21.45	22.50	6.05						
	दादर / Dadar	7.19	21.20	23.05	5.35						
	लोकमान्य ति. ट./LokmanyaTT					11.45	18.25	14.20	6.40		
	थाना / Thane	7.45	20.50	23.30	5.00	12.20	17.40	14.45	6.00		
	पनवेल / Panvel	8.30	20.05	0.20	4.10	13.05	16.50	15.35	5.15		
44	माणगांव / Mangaon			2.38	1.50			17.43	3.10		
139	खेड / Khed	11.40	16.08	3.40	0.15			18.58	1.46		
180	चिपलून / Chiplun	12.10	15.35	4.12	23.40	17.15	12.40	19.27	1.10		
240	संगमेश्वर / Sangmeshwar			4.53	22.54						
286	रत्नागिरी / Ratnagiri	13.50	14.30	5.50	22.20	18.45	11.15	21.02	24.00		
331	अडवली / Adavali	14.15	13.47								
376	राजापुर / Rajapur Road			6.45	20.55						
398	वैभववाडी / Vaibhavwadi Rd			7.00	20.35						
441	कणकवली / Kankavali	15.36	12.35	7.29	20.05						
467	सिंधुदुर्ग / Sindhudurg	15.52	12.20	7.45	19.51						
482	कुडाल / Kudal	16.02	12.08	7.58	19.40	21.00	8.50	22.58	21.40		
510	सावंतवाडी / Sawantwadi Rd	16.22	11.40	8.24	19.20						
541	पेरणे / Pernem			9.12	18.59						
556	थिविम / Thivim	16.50	11.13	9.24	18.46	21.52	7.47				
580	करमाली / Karmali	17.16	10.57	9.48	18.29	22.10	7.32				
621	मडगांव / Madgaon	18.15	10.30	10.45	18.00	22.55	6.40	0.35	19.55		
667	काणकोण / Canacona					23.25	5.48	1.05	19.10		
703	कारवार / Karwar					23.50	5.18	1.30	18.45		
742	अंकोला / Ankola										
752	गोकर्न / Gokarna Rd										
780	कुमठा / Kumta					0.38	4.25	2.30	17.58		
798	होन्नावर / Honnavar							2.46	17.42		
836	मुर्डेश्वर / Murdeshwar					1.10	3.48	3.12	17.17		
856	भटकल / Bhatkal					1.43	3.22	3.28	17.01		
924	कुंदापुरा / Kundapura					2.34	2.40	4.15	16.21		
969	उडुपि / Udupi					3.14	2.07	4.46	15.55		
993	पादुविद्री / Padubidri										
1015	मुल्की / Mulki							5.21	15.28		
1028	सुरतकल / Suratkal					4.04	1.26	5.46	15.16		
	कंकनाडी / Kanknadi					4.50	0.55				
	मंगलूर / Mangalore							6.30	14.50		
	एर्नाकुलम / Ernakulam					14.20	14.15				
	तिरुअनंतपुरम् / Trivandrum					19.10	10.00				
	नागरकोईल / Nagercoil										

हमारे यहाँ आने वाला सर्वाधिक महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति है हमारा ग्राहक

Please note that this specimen timetable is given only for the purpose of study, not actual use.

1. Look at the timetable on Page 102. Where do we find such timetables displayed? What information do they give?
2. Form pairs and quiz your partner with the help of the timetable using the following question types.
 - * Name the train no up / down.
 - * Find a station that begins with (P/M/.....)
 - * Find a train that leaves at
 - * Find a train that arrives at
 - * Which trains have odd numbers? Which have even numbers?
 - * Find a station with a tea-stall.
 - * Find a station not reachable by Express.
 - * Find a train leaving from CSMT.
 - * Find the number of train.....
3. Ahmed lives in Panvel. He invites his cousin Saurabh. Saurabh doesn't know Marathi too well. He lives in Murdeshwar. So they discuss Saurabh's travel plans in English. Write their conversation using the timetable on page 102.
4. List words related to railway / bus journey, for example, passengers, advance booking, boarding, etc.
5. Write the opposite word / phrase in the following pairs.
 - * arrival : * reserved :
 - * board : * current booking :
 - * get on : * up :
6. Download the train timetable app on your parents' mobile, with their permission, from Play Store. Find the trains, the fare, stations, time taken for the journey, distance, the departure and arrival time etc. with the help of the app.
 - * Plan a railway journey for your family / friends using the app.



Let's go on a long journey. I want to see what the sleeper coach looks like. I want to travel in a two-tier compartment.



Language Study

Consider the following sentences.

- We gasped.
- We stood mute and motionless.
- I was surprised.
- I was observing this phenomenal creature.
- The cannoneer fired a shot.
- The shell hit the animal.

If you try to find the subject and object in these sentences, you will notice that all these sentences have subjects, but there are no objects in some sentences.

Some verbs do not need objects. For example, consider these sentences.

- Birds **fly**.
- The egg **fell** down.
- The balloon **rose** in the sky.
- The baby **smiles** all the time.

The verbs fly, fell (fall), rose (rise), smiles (smile) in these sentences do not have any objects.

They are known as **intransitive** verbs.

Now read the following sentences.

- He is writing a book.
subject verb object
- She answers all the questions.
subject verb object
- The dog ate the biscuit.
subject verb object

Thus, all these verbs have an object.

They are known as **transitive** verbs.



TOW

Two minutes of Oral Work

Write as many words as possible, that go with the following verbs :

- make • catch • grow • reach
- take • get • go • keep.

