

## 2.2 The House-builder

### WARMING UP !

#### CHIT - CHAT

Make groups and discuss the following.

1. What is retirement from occupation?
2. When do people retire?
3. For what reasons do people have to retire from their occupation?
4. How do people spend their time after retirement?

(1) Discuss and match the professionals involved in construction with the work they do.

A	B
(1) Architect	(a) makes wooden framework of doors, windows etc.
(2) Engineer	(b) beautifies the inside of a home
(3) Building contractor	(c) does the flooring
(4) Carpenter	(d) plans and designs structure
(5) Mason	(e) ensures structure will be strong and stable
(6) Tiler	(f) builds walls, roof etc and plasters
(7) Interior decorator	(g) supervises construction, employs workers, professionals etc.

(2) A word can be broken up into units of pronunciation each having one vowel sound (with or without consonant sounds around it).

Each such unit is called a syllable.

For example : ● to, got, will, see etc. have just one syllable.

● fa-ther, ma-son, buil-der have two syllables.

● en-gin-eer, car-pen-ter, cons-truc-tion etc. have three syllables.

Write down names of any five of your classmates and break them up into syllables. Write down the number of syllables in each of their names.

A syllable is a single, unbroken sound of a spoken (or written) word. Syllables usually contain a vowel and accompanying consonants. Sometimes syllables are referred to as the 'beats' of spoken language.

## The House-builder

This is a story of a **mason**, who worked for a building contractor. The mason always **strove** to do his work to perfection.

As soon as a house had been designed by the architect and details finalized by the engineer, the contractor would send for the mason and leave the responsibility of building the house to him. The mason would then, without wasting any time start his work. He would take great interest in his work of building and do it with full **dedication**. He made sure that he used the best construction material, of high quality, the measurements of the walls, doorways, arches etc. were perfect and he gave an excellent and appealing finish to whatever he built. The owners of the new houses built, would be more than satisfied with the construction.

Because of the **zeal**, **diligence**, loyalty and **persistence** that he displayed in his work, the mason was in great demand and fetched good business to his contractor. Subsequently the contractor, **recompensed** the mason, handsomely, with a very good salary. He could meet the needs of his family sufficiently, without any scarcity.

The mason thus continued working with great devotion for many years, till he became a grandfather. Then he decided that it was time to retire and spend time playing with his grandchildren. Being a firm-minded person, he informed his contractor of his decision to retire from house-building. The contractor was very **disheartened** to lose such an excellent workman and urged the mason to continue his job, but **to no avail**. The mason had made up his mind and refused to carry on.

Finally, the contractor convinced the mason to build one last house on a beautiful and convenient site, as a special favour. The mason agreed to do so with great **reluctance**, not too happily either.

The construction started. It was a most beautifully designed house to be built at a sought-after location. However, the mason could not put his mind and heart in his work. He did his work very roughly and

- **mason** : one who builds with stone, bricks, cement etc.

- **strove** : made great efforts etc.

◆ *Why was the mason a very good workman?*

- **dedication** : committed to task or purpose

- **zeal** : great enthusiasm and energy in one's efforts.

- **diligence** : constant careful efforts

- **persistence** : continuous efforts

- **recompensed** : money given for work done

◆ *What sudden decision did the mason take?*

- **disheartened** : felt disappointed

- **to no avail** : of no use

- **reluctance** : unwillingness

◆ *What was the contrast in the workmanship of the last house?*

● **legal** : connected to law

◆ *What shock awaited the mason?*

● **beaming** : smiling with great joy

carelessly, without interest or dedication. Even the building material used was of low quality; but he did not care. He simply wanted to complete the job in haste and finally retire.

The house was ready earlier than expected – very roughly made structures, weak walls, poor finish and did not look as good at all, as designed. Yet the mason did not care. He informed the contractor that the house was ready and he was waiting to hand over its keys to him.

The contractor arrived at the site. He had a file of **legal** documents in his hand. The mason handed over the new house’s keys to him. But the contractor did not step forward to enter the house, to see it. Instead, with a broad smile, he handed over the file along with the house-keys to the mason and said **beaming** happy tone, “These are the ownership documents of this new house in your name. The house is yours. I had planned it as a gift for you.”

## English Workshop

### 1. Find from the story the Noun forms of the following.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| (1) dedicate : ..... | (5) own : .....         |
| (2) measure : .....  | (6) give : .....        |
| (3) decide : .....   | (7) responsible : ..... |
| (4) perfect : .....  | (8) persist : .....     |

### 2. Choose the proper phrase / expression to complete the sentences meaningfully.

(to send for, with full dedication, in great demand, to meet the needs of, make up one’s mind, to no avail, to hand over)

- (1) She does her job .....
- (2) One should ..... to help others, when needed.
- (3) As Mr. Jadhav was transferred to Chennai he had ..... his responsibilities to his assistant.
- (4) The labourer’s income was not sufficient ..... his family.
- (5) Because of a fault in the wiring, they will have ..... an electrician.
- (6) Mother tried hard to change her son’s habits, but .....
- (7) Mangoes from Ratnagiri are always .....

**3. Read the story and answer in your words.**

(a) The owners of the new houses built by the mason would be extremely pleased. WHY?

.....  
 .....

(b) The contractor compensated for the mason’s good work. HOW?

.....  
 .....

(c) The mason made a firm decision to retire. WHEN?

.....  
 .....

**4. Read the following words from the story aloud and fill them in the proper columns.**

(story, work, perfection, architect, leave, building, full, door, way, quality, responsibility, measurement, great, many, avail, excellent, material, complete, sufficiently, ready, documents, broad, happy, ownership, subsequently.)

One syllabic	Two syllabic	Three syllabic	More than three syllabic

**5. (A) Words that have the same sound / pronunciation, but differ in spellings and meanings are called Homophones. For example : hair - hare**

**Pick out from the lesson Homophones of the following words :**

- (1) waist .....
- (2) knew .....
- (3) lose .....
- (4) maid .....
- (5) grate .....

- (6) won .....
- (7) sight .....
- (8) week .....
- (9) would .....
- (10) sea .....

**(B) Select any three pairs of homophones from above and make simple sentences of your own to show the difference in their meaning.**

- (1) (i) .....
- (ii) .....
- (2) (i) .....
- (ii) .....
- (3) (i) .....
- (ii) .....

**6. ‘Always do your best. What you plant now, you will harvest later’.**

**Write a paragraph on the above topic with an interesting example of the same.**

