

## 4.4 The Unsinkable Ship

### WARMING UP !

#### CHIT - CHAT

- (1) Have you heard/read about natural calamity ?
- (2) What are the different possibilities in a long journey?
- (3) Do you know the sea voyages?
- (4) How is the journey in the sea different from the other?
- (5) Why should we have alternatives in the journey?

**(1) Read the lines given below. Imagine yourself in the situation and answer the questions, based on your imagination.**

After the games-practice, my friends and I were hungry. We decided to go to a snacks-outlet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor in a huge six-storeyed mall, on the way. Just as we paid our bill and were about to leave, there was a ear-shattering blast. A loud explosion on the first floor.

- What was your first reaction ?

.....

- How did the public panic?

.....

- What did some alert, sensible people do?

.....

- What was the damage and danger?

.....

- Who came to the rescue?

.....

- How many were injured and killed?

.....

- What effect did the instance leave on your mind?

.....

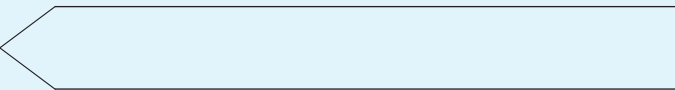
**(2) (A) The word 'Unsinkable' has a prefix as well as suffix. The root (base) word is 'sink'.**

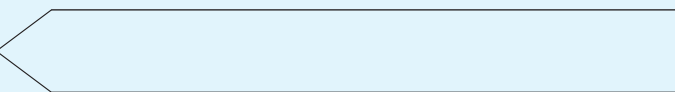
**Give the root words of the following.**

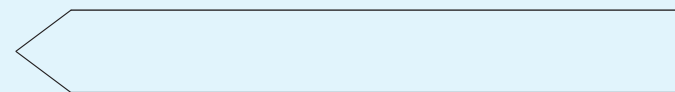
- (1) uncomfortable
- (2) unhappiness
- (3) insecurity
- (4) inaccuracy

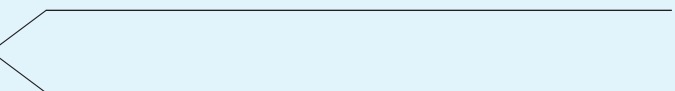
- (5) independence
- (6) emailer
- (7) unloosen
- (8) disability
- (9) disappearance
- (10) unfriendly
- (11) interactive
- (12) misunderstanding

**(B) Write 2 words each with the following prefixes.**

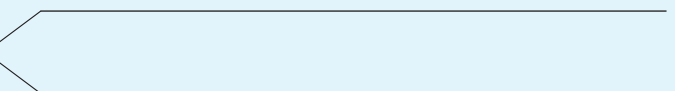
(i) anti 

(ii) dis 

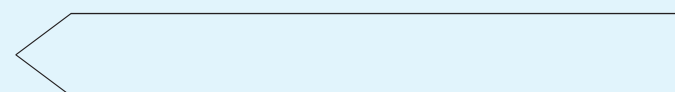
(iii) non 

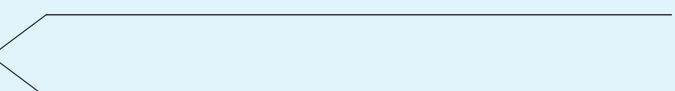
(iv) re 

**(C) Write 2 words each with the following suffixes.**

(i) ful 

(ii) ous 

(iii) less 

(iv) ly 

## The Unsinkable Ship

On 10 April 1912, the largest luxury ship in the world set sail from Southampton in England to New York. She was called the Titanic. The word 'titanic' means 'huge'. This was her maiden voyage, that is her first voyage. She set out to cross the Atlantic Ocean and she carried more than two thousand passengers. The Titanic was like a floating town.

Everyone called the Titanic the finest ship in the world. Everyone was proud of her. She was as tall as a building with fifteen storeys. Inside, she was like a large hotel with grand staircases, dining-rooms, shops and swimming pools.

Everyone thought that the Titanic could never sink. They called her the unsinkable ship. The ship's builders were so sure of this, that they put only a few life-boats on the ship.

The journey was very comfortable. The passengers were proud because they were travelling in the best ship in the world. They felt safe.

Then came the night of 14 April. The sky was clear and the sea was calm. Many of the passengers were asleep. Captain Smith knew that there were **icebergs** nearby, so he told a man to keep a watch from the top of the ship. Suddenly at 11.40 p.m. the man saw something. He grew cold with fear. A huge iceberg stood right in the path of the Titanic. ICEBERGE! He yelled.

Captain Smith fought hard **to steer** the Titanic away from the **iceberg**, but the ship changed direction slowly and her side **scraped** the mountain of ice. A shower of ice fell on to the decks and the iceberg cut holes along the ship's side. Water began to pour into the lower decks. Most passengers heard nothing and slept on.

Captain Smith and his crew could not stop the water flooding through the ship. They knew the Titanic was in great danger. The unsinkable ship was sinking. At 12.15 a.m., Captain Smith sent urgent messages on the ship's radio asking for help. 'HELP!' TITANIC SINKING! COME QUICKLY! Then he ordered the crew

◆ *Why was the Titanic so called?*

◆ *What facilities were available on the ship?*

● **iceberg** : a very large mass of ice floating in the sea.

◆ *What made the man turn cold with fright?*

● **to steer** : to turn

● **scraped** : scratched deep against a rough surface

◆ *What was the damage caused to the ship?*

to wake all the passengers up.

A ship called 'The California' was only twenty miles away, but she did not receive Titanic's messages. Her radio was turned off and the radio operator was asleep.

Another ship called the 'Carpathia' heard the Titanic's calls and sailed at full speed towards her. Unfortunately, the Carpathia was far away and she took over three hours to reach the Titanic.

Meanwhile, the Titanic was sinking rapidly. The crew lowered the life-boats into the sea, but there was only enough space in the boat for a few hundred passengers. The Titanic had more than two thousand people on board. The ship began to **tilt** into the sea. People began to jump from the decks into the ice-cold water.

With its lights still shining, the Titanic stood upright for a few minutes. Then, at 2.20 a.m., on 15 April, she vanished into the sea. About fifteen hundred people drowned. Captain Smith and most of his crew went down with the ship.

The Carpathia arrived at 3.40 a.m. The ship's crew found the life-boats and saved seven hundred people in them. They also found chairs and pieces of wood floating on the water. But almost all of the people in the water had drowned or died of cold. The Carpathia was too late to save them.

The sinking of the Titanic made people think harder about the safety of passengers on ships. They asked why ships carry such few life-boats and why they turn off their radios. In 1913, it was decided that all ships must have enough room in their life-boats to carry everyone on board. It was also decided that ships must keep their radios working every hour of the day and night.

In 1985, scientists sent a submarine to look for the wreck of the Titanic. They found the ship lying in two pieces on the ocean floor, at a depth of around 4000 metres (13,000 feet). Later, they took photographs of the wreck and brought small parts of it to the surface of the water.

◆ *Why were the passengers in grave danger?*

● **tilt** : move in a sloping, bent position.

◆ *Why could 'Carpathia' not do much to save more lives?*

◆ *What two compulsions were laid down for all ships, in 1913?*

◆ *How far had the Titanic sunk?*

There are many stories of bravery on that terrible night in April 1912. In 1998, the director James Cameron made a famous film of the Titanic's maiden voyage. It is a very sad film. Almost everyone who sees the film leaves the cinema in tears.

### English Workshop

**1. (A) Find any 6 words from the text that have suffixes. Underline the suffix in each of them.**

- (a) ..... (b) ..... (c) .....  
(d) ..... (e) ..... (f) .....

**(B) Two words may combine to form a new word with a changed meaning. Such words are called Compound words in English.**

For example : every + thing = everything

Some of them have a hyphen. For example : life-skills

Find 4 or 5 compound words from the text.

**2. (A) Read the text and answer.**

- (a) What does the word 'Titanic' mean?  
(b) How many passengers did Titanic carry?  
(c) Why were the passengers on Titanic, proud?  
(d) Why did people call 'Titanic' an unsinkable ship?  
(e) What did Carpathia's crew find?  
(f) Who was the director of the film based on the Titanic's maiden voyage?  
(g) Where did the scientists find Titanic?

**(B) Discuss in groups of four and find out.**

- (a) Reasons for the sinking of Titanic.  
(b) Effects of the sinking of Titanic.

**3. Read and find words related to sea and arrange them alphabetically.**

**4. (A) She was as tall as a building with fifteen storeys.**

Here She (the Titanic) is compared with a building of fifteen storeys. You know that when a comparison is made between two objects of different kinds it is called Simile. A Simile is introduced by the word 'as.....as or like'.

Frame five of your own sentences using the construction ..... as.....as.....

**Write them down in your notebook.**

**(B) The Carpathia was too late to save them. Write three sentences of your own using the following construction ..... too ..... to.**

5. Read again from 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph (Then came the night of 14 April ..... ) upto 12<sup>th</sup> paragraph. (The Carpathia was too late to save them.)

- Mark the most important points.
- Using the points make a summary of the incident in your own words, using short simple sentences.
- Write out the summary in 12 to 15 lines.

## Language Study

1. The Sentences can be classified into three types – Simple, Complex and Compound.

- A **Simple Sentence** is one that has only one Subject and one Predicate. It has only one Finite verb.

For example : She **went** home.

In the morning, near my school I **saw** a snake.

- A **Complex Sentence** consists of one Main Clause and one or more Dependant or Subordinate Clauses.

For example : She **went** home, after school **was** over.

The boys **found** the book which **had been** lost.

- A **Compound Sentence** consists of two or more Independent or Co-ordinate Clauses. They are joined by Co-ordinators. (For example : and, but, so, or, nor etc.)

For eample : He finished his work **and** he left his office.

He is poor **but** he is honest.

2. Say whether the following are Simple, Complex or Compound Sentences.

- (1) They felt safe.
- (2) Captain Smith knew that there were icebergs nearby.
- (3) He fought hard to steer, but the ship changed direction slowly.
- (4) Most passengers heard nothing and they slept on.
- (5) The crew lowered the life-boats.
- (6) They asked them why ships carry such few life-boats.

3. Find from the text two examples each of Simple, Complex and Compound Sentences.

