

Unit II FUNCTIONAL ENGLISH

Theory: (Poem)

‘The Bangle Sellers’ by Sarojini Naidu

Focus on: a) Comparison of Adjectives [Textual]

b) Fill in the blanks with suitable forms of adjectives.[General]

‘The Bangle Sellers’ by Sarojini Naidu

Bangle sellers are we who bear
Our shining loads to the temple fair...
Who will buy these delicate, bright
Rainbow-tinted circles of light?
Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,
For happy daughters and happy wives.

Some are meet for a maiden's wrist,
Silver and blue as the mountain mist,
Some are flushed like the buds that dream
On the tranquil brow of a woodland stream,
Some are aglow with the bloom that cleaves
To the limpid glory of new born leaves

Some are like fields of sunlit corn,
Meet for a bride on her bridal morn,
Some, like the flame of her marriage fire,
Or, rich with the hue of her heart's desire,
Tinkling, luminous, tender, and clear,
Like her bridal laughter and bridal tear.

Some are purple and gold flecked grey
For she who has journeyed through life midway,
Whose hands have cherished, whose love has blest,
And cradled fair sons on her faithful breast,
And serves her household in fruitful pride,
And worships the gods at her husband's side.

Read the given poetry lines and answer the following questions:

(stanza 1)

1. Where are the bangle sellers going?

The bangle sellers are going to temple fair.

2. What do you mean by 'shining loads'?

The phrase 'shining loads' refers to bright and colourful bangles carried by bangle sellers.

3. Who would like to buy the bangles?

Happy daughters and happy wives would like to buy the bangles.

4. Who wrote these lines?

Sarojini Naidu wrote these lines.

5. Describe the appearance of the bangles.

The bangles are delicate, bright and rainbow coloured.

(Stanza 2)

1. Which bangles are suitable for a maiden's wrist?

Silver and blue bangles are suitable for a maiden's wrist.

2. What are the comparisons made by the poet in the beginning?

The poet compares the bangles to mountain mist and buds.

3. What are compared to new born leaves?

Bangles shining with light and colour are compared to new born leaves.

4. Where are the poetry lines taken from?

The poetry lines are taken from "Bangle Sellers."

5. Write down the rhyming words found in these lines.

Wrist-mist, dream-stream, cleaves-leaves are the rhyming words found in these lines.

(Stanza -3)

1. For whom are the bangles like sunlit corn fields suitable ?

The bangles like sunlit corn fields are suitable for a bride on the day of her marriage.

2. Why does the poet compare bangles to flame of marriage fire?

The bangles are not only as yellow, orange and red as but also as holy as the flame of marriage fire. So the poet compares so.

3. How does the poet compare the sound of bangles?

The poet compares that the bangles are tinkling like bridal laughter.

4. What is the implication of bridal tear?

The bridal tear implies the separation of a bride from her parents.

5. Name the rhyming words in the given lines?

Corn-morn, fire-desire, clear-tear are the rhyming words in the given lines.

(Stanza – 4)

1. Which colour bangles are generally suitable for middle aged women?

Purple and golden grey colour bangles are suitable for middle aged women.

2. What do you mean by 'fruitful pride'?

A middle aged woman has sacrificed a lot for the betterment of others in the family. Hence her love, care and sacrifice make her have 'fruitful pride'.

3. What are the three roles played by a middle aged woman?

A middle aged woman has played the role of a loving mother to her sons, a home maker taking care of household duties and a better half always at the side of her husband.

4. Write the rhyme scheme used in the given lines.

"Aa bb cc" is the rhyme scheme used in the given lines.

5. What are the rhyming words found in the given lines?

Grey-midway, blest-breast, pride-side are the rhyming words in given lines.

A) Degrees of Comparison:

A degree of comparison refers to a form of adjective or adverb used to compare a person, place or thing with another or more similar ones. The three degrees of

comparison are positive degree, comparative degree and superlative degree. Positive degree is told without any comparison (Uma is a beautiful girl.) Comparative degree makes comparison between any two. (Uma is a more beautiful than Priya) Superlative degree compares one thing with many highlighting the greatest or least quality. (Uma is the most beautiful girl in the class.)

How to Use Degrees of Comparison?

<i>Sl.No</i>	<i>Superlative</i>	<i>Comparative</i>	<i>Positive</i>
1	One of the greatest Example: Milton is one of the greatest poets in English Literature.	greater than most other Example: Milton is greater than most other poets in English Literature.	Very few...as great as Example: Very few poets in English Literature are as great as Milton.
2	the greatest Milton is the greatest poet in English Literature.	greater than any other Milton is greater than any other poet in English Literature.	No other... as great as No other poet is as great as Milton.
3	No superlative	greater than Milton is greater than Keats.	not as great as Keats is not as great as Milton.
4	No superlative	not greater than Keats is not greater than Milton.	as great as Milton is as great as Keats.

Exercise (textual)

Identify the adjectives in the given lines and use any one of them in degrees of comparison.

Bangle sellers are we who bear
 Our shining loads to the temple fair...
 Who will buy these delicate, bright
 Rainbow-tinted circles of light?
 Lustrous tokens of radiant lives,

For happy daughters and happy wives.

Adjectives in the given lines: shining, delicate, bright, rainbow-tinted, lustrous and happy

Use of Degrees of Comparison:

1. happy - I am happier than my friends. (comparative degree)
2. delicate - China cups are the most delicate ones. (superlative degree)
3. bright - Stars are bright in the night. (positive degree)

B) Fill in the blanks with suitable forms of adjectives: (General)

Exercise 1:

1. Mobile is _____ to access the Internet resources. (useful, more useful, most useful)
2. Sherlock Holmes is _____ than any other short story. (interesting, more interesting, the most interesting)
3. Chennai is the _____ city in Tamil Nadu. (big, bigger, biggest)
4. Gowri is one of the _____ friends I have. (good, better, best)
5. This movie is not as _____ as his previous one. (successful, more successful, most successful)

Answers: 1. useful, 2. more interesting, 3. biggest, 4. best, 5. successful

Exercise 2:

1. Smoking is _____ to health. (injurious, more injurious, most injurious)
2. Your picture is _____ than mine. (small, smaller, smallest)
3. He is as _____ as his friend. (strong, stronger, strongest)
4. English is _____ than any other language to learn. (easy, easier, easiest)
5. This is the _____ idea you have ever told. (creative, more creative, most creative)

Answers: 1. injurious, 2. smaller, 3. strong, 4. easier, 5. most creative

Listening:

Listening to Lyrical Poems and noting down the Descriptive Adjectives.

Lyrical Poems:

Poems written in 1st person expressing the poet's feelings and emotions and accompanied with music are generally known as lyrical poems. Sonnet, elegy, ode, ballad and dramatic monologue are some popular forms of lyrical poems. They are normally short and follow meter. Shakespearean sonnets and the odes written by Shelley and Keats are best examples for lyrical poems.

Descriptive Adjectives:

Adjectives which describe people, places and things are called descriptive adjectives. They create an image in your mind and tend to present how somebody or something look like. For example, when we say - she is tall and had big eyes and long hair, the adjectives tall, big and long create the picture of a lady in our mind and say, how she appears to others. Descriptive adjectives also tell us what type person or thing somebody or something is. In a sentence - she is talkative, short tempered but fair, we describe what type of person she is. Similarly, by a sentence, the book is old but useful for researchers, we understand, what type of book it is through the adjectives –old and useful. In short, any adjective that modifies a noun describing its quality is called a descriptive adjective. Hence, most of the adjectives in English will fall into this category since the main task of adjectives is to describe the quality of a noun. However, the following limiting adjectives, are not descriptive adjectives: Demonstrative adjectives (This, that, these, those), quantifying adjectives(many, some, few, couple, any, all several, one, two, first, second...) and possessive adjectives(my, your, his, her, our...)

Listen to the following lyrical poem and note down the descriptive adjectives:

1. Ode on a Grecian Urn by John Keats

(An Extract – Listening video link:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2r45c03_L5E Time: 0.42 to 1.18)

*Heard melodies are sweet, but those unheard
Are sweeter; therefore, ye soft pipes, play on;
Not to the sensual ear, but, more endear'd,
Pipe to the spirit ditties of no tone:*

*Fair youth, beneath the trees, thou canst not leave
Thy song, nor ever can those trees be bare;
Bold Lover, never, never canst thou kiss,
Though winning near the goal yet, do not grieve;
She cannot fade, though thou hast not thy bliss,
For ever wilt thou love, and she be fair!*

Descriptive Adjectives in the poem:

heard – sweet – unheard – sweeter – soft – sensual – endeared – fair – bare – bold

2. *I wandered lonely as a cloud* by William Wordsworth

(Listening video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Uv80xQejrg>)

*I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.*

*Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.*

*The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:*

*For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.*

Descriptive Adjectives in the poem:

Golden – milky – neverending – sprightly – sparkling – gay – jocund – vacant –
pensive – inward

3. Ozymandias by P.B.Shelley

(Listening video link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPISH6n37ts>)

*I met a traveller from an antique land,
Who said—"Two vast and trunkless legs of stone
Stand in the desert. . . . Near them, on the sand,
Half sunk a shattered visage lies, whose frown,
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed;
And on the pedestal, these words appear:
My name is Ozymandias, King of Kings;
Look on my Works, ye Mighty, and despair!
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay
Of that colossal Wreck, boundless and bare
The lone and level sands stretch far away."*

Descriptive Adjectives in the poem:

antique – vast – trunkless – halfsunk – shattered – wrinkled – cold – lifeless –
mighty – colossal – boundless – bare – lone – level
