

ENGLISH GRAMMAR & COMPOSITION FOR COMPETITIVE EXAMS

want to moralize. Let's not. Conversation need not always be purposeful but it must at least be for pleasure it should be congenial aiming for example at knowing better one's conversation partner. Above all it should be joyful and amiable for as essayist Joseph Addison put it: Good nature is more agreeable in conversation than wit. I do not object to enforced conversation say by the hostess who interrupts an after-dinner group with. We simply must hear about John's trip to Africa. I am less tolerant, however, of those who would arbitrarily halt a good conversation with a flat come now, let's up stop all this serious talk. A good conversation is a fragile thing to be nurtured carefully. And finally I want to encourage the pixie of the conversation who can add zest. Our talk too often reflects the dull things that we do all day. Provocation, whimsy, laughter, mockery and flirtation all have their place in the art of good conversation. Of which it was long ago said, "But prompt without being stubborn, refuse without argument, clothe weighty matters in a motley garb."

Answer briefly in your own words the following questions.

1. Give the meaning of the following words and phrases as they are used in the passage:
Edifice, Bridge talk, Garrulous, Discomforted, Congeniality, Gratuitously, Pixie, Whimsy.
2. Is watching TV or talking about bridge a good conversation?
3. What does the writer mean by conversation?
4. What should be avoided in conversation?
5. Point out the minor characteristics of the art of good conversation?
6. What is collision?
7. What does make the conversation meaningful?
8. What is the basic aim of conversation?
9. It is quality not quantity that counts. Analyze the statement in the light of given passage.
10. When is silence a meaningful expression in conversation; when it is not?

Passage 2

Boredom as a factor in human behavior has been, I believe one of the greatest motive power throughout the historical epoch and is so at the present day more than ever before. The desire for excitement is very deep-seated in human beings, especially in males. I suppose that in the hunting stage, it was more easily gratified than it has been since. The chase was exciting, war was exciting, courtship was exciting. But with coming of agriculture, life began to grow dull. In old days after supper everybody sat round and had what was called a happy family time. This meant that the head of the family went to sleep, his wife knitted and the daughters wished they were dead or at Timbuktu. All this weight of boredom should be borne in mind in estimating the word of a hundred years ago. We are less bored than our ancestors were but we are more

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afraid of boredom. We have come to believe that boredom is not part of the natural lot of man, but can be avoided by a sufficiently vigorous pursuit of excitement. A wish to escape from boredom is natural: indeed all races of mankind have displayed it as opportunity occurred. Wars, genocide and persecutions have all been part of flight from boredom: even quarrels with neighbors have been found better than nothing. Boredom, however, is not to be regarded as wholly evil. A certain power of enduring boredom is essential to a happy life. All great books contain boring portions, and all great lives have contained uninteresting stretches. Imagine a modern publisher confronted with uninteresting stretches. Imagine a modern publisher confronted with the old testament as a new manuscript submitted to him for the first time. What would his comments be, for instance, on the genealogies? "My dear sir". He would say you can't expect your reader to be interested in a mere string of proper names of persons about whom you tell so little. You have begun your story: I will admit, in fine style, and at first, I was very favorably impressed but you have altogether too much wish to tell it all. Pick out the highlights, take out the superfluous matter and bring me back the manuscript when you have reduced it to a reasonable length. All the best novels contain boring passages. A novel which sparkles from the first page to the last is pretty sure not to be a great book. Nor have the lives of most great men been exciting except at a few great moments. Socrates could enjoy a banquet now and again and must have derived considerable satisfaction from his conversations while the hemlock was Xanthippe, taking a constitutional in the afternoon and perhaps meeting a few friends by the way. Immanuel Kant is said never to have been more than ten miles from Konigsberg in all his life, Charles Darwin after going round the world, spent the remainder of his days in the British Museum. Altogether, it would be found that a quiet life is characteristic of great men, and that, their pleasures have not been of the sort that would look exciting to the outward eye. The capacity to endure a more or less monotonous life is one which should be acquired in childhood. Modern parents do not realize the importance to a child of having one day like another, except of course, for somewhat rare occasions. The pleasures of childhood should in the main be such as the child extracts from his environment by means of some effort and inventiveness. Pleasures which are exciting and at the same time involve no physical exertion, such for example as the theatre, should occur very rarely. A child develops best when liked a young plan he is left undisturbed in the same soil. Too much travel, too great a variety of impressions, are not good for the young and cause them as they grow up to become incapable of enduring fruitful monotony. A boy or young man who has some serious constructive purposes will endure voluntarily a great deal of boredom if he finds that it is necessary by the way. But constructive purposes do not easily form themselves in a boy's mind if he is living a life of distraction and dissipations, for in that case his thoughts will always be directed towards the next pleasure rather than the distant achievement. A generation that cannot endure boredom will be a generation of little men of men unduly divorced from the slow process of nature.

Answer briefly in your own words the following questions.

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- 1.** Explain the following words and phrases as used in the passage.
Epoch, gratified, genealogies, derived, hemlock, monotonous, dissipations.
- 2.** What is the common characteristic of great men?
- 3.** When does a child develop best?
- 4.** Describe the change introduced by agriculture?
- 5.** What were the activities of excitement in the hunting era?
- 6.** How did people use to escape from boredom in old ages?
- 7.** Boredom despite being loathed and avoided, has been the greatest motive throughout history. Do you agree?

Precis & Composition

Passage 1

QNo 2

No, watching TV or talking about bridge is not a good conversation.

QNo 3

Conversation means the art of a person to convert ideas and images of mind into words. It also means to get engage with people by getting attention.

QNo 4

During a conversation one sided chat without engaging other, Both person talking at same time and starting address for long time should be avoided. For strangers silance should be avoided, ^{with} also general discussion.

QNo 5

Provocation, Whimsy, Laughter, Mockery and Fixation are the characteristics for the art of good conversation.

QNo6

In a conversation, two people talking at a same time without listening to other is called collision.

QNo7

Purposeful conversation is always meaningful. Uncomfortable and forced conversation should be rejected as they don't have any meaning.

QNo8

Aim of Conversation is the engaging of people and delivring of ideas from one mind to other. As it is a source of pleasure and joy.

QNo9

While Conversation ~~is~~ using small chats instead of detailed speeches when the ideas and purpose are not clear. Talking meaningless just stay in chat is not good instead Best one is ~~more~~ mature and Quality discussion.

QNo10

Silence is a meaningful expression when there are unheard new things are discussion is going in-appropriate. But for

strangers silences should be converted into small chat for sake of engaging.

PASSAGE 2

QNo 2

Characteristic of great ~~man~~ men is having a quiet life.

QNo 3

When a child stays a same place by doing a same discipline for a time period then he develops best.

QNo 4

By evolution of agriculture, change in family life was boredom as father chose sleep after dinner, mother did her chores and daughter were left alone.

QNo 5

Chasing during hunting, war in old days and marriage life were thought as activities of excitement in hunting etc.

Qno6

In old ages, to escape from boredom people used to have fights in society, Massacre or Oppression over other as well as writing of books, travelling round the world. People used to adopt evil or good means for ending boredom.

Qno7

Yes, it was the boredom that caused haunting, and also man evolved in agriculture to escape from boredom. All the great men have times in their life when they have normal days full of dullness but these days caused the names to get famous.