

Unit 5 Developing the Writing Skills-1



Unit 5 : Developing the Writing Skills - 1

Lesson 5.1 Writing descriptions - 1

Objectives: After you have studied the lesson you will be able

■ to describe some actions in the past and the future.

- A. Here is a calendar month which was used by Majeda as her diary. She wrote on it the things she did during the month. Now describe chronologically (in the order in which they happened) what she did.



July

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 Girameen B For new loan 10 am	2	3	4 'Hat' (Market) to buy a new dress for Ayesha
5	6 Ayesha's birthday	7	8	9 Parent day Meeting at 9 am	10	11
12	13	14 Vat office for advice	15	16	17 Boat race in the afternoon	18
19	20 Visit Aunt's in Sherpur town	21	22 Watching a film with Aunt and Ayesha	23	24 Dentist for herself and Ayesha	25 Return home at 6 pm
26	27	28 Welfare Association meeting at 7 pm	29	30	31	

Fig 5.1 : A calendar month



Example: Majeda went to Grameen Bank for a new loan on Wednesday, 1st July at 10 am.

- B. Here is a list of things the AEO had to do yesterday. The ticks show what he did and crosses show what he could not do. Write what he did and what he could not do. Also write one sentence for each item on the list describing what you think about it (ie whether you too did it recently or will do it soon or later or just whether you like it or not).**

Things to do

1.	take out some money from the bank	√
2.	call a meeting of the farmers' cooperative	√
3.	send a proposal for more brochures	
4.	answer Rafiq's letter	
5.	buy some vegetables	√
6.	visit the Rahmans	√
7.	write the workshop report	
8.	send for the plumber	√
9.	take the computer lesson in the evening	



Example: The AEO took out some money from the bank. I draw money from the bank at least twice a month.

C. Write about what you did last Friday?

These questions will help you to write the answer.

1. What did you do in the morning?
2. Did you do it by yourself or did anybody help you to do it?
3. Did you go out any time during the day? If you did, where did you go and for how long? If on the other hand, you did not go out, write why you did not go out.
4. What did you have for lunch?
5. What did you do in the afternoon?
6. What did you have for dinner?
7. What did you do after dinner?

Example : I woke up late in the morning and had a heavy breakfast.

D. Suppose you have won 600,000 taka in a Prize Bond draw. With half of the money you have decided to take a trip to a foreign country.

These questions will help you to write about your trip.

1. Where would you like to go? (name of the country, location)
2. Who would you like to travel with?



3. What would you like to take with you? (money, clothes, running shoes, equipment, etc.).
4. When would you like to go (season, month, week) and why?
5. How long would you stay?
6. How would you like to go (by plane, by car, by bus, by steamer, by boat, etc.) and why?
7. Why have you chosen this place? (its attractions, facilities, food, history, people, etc.)

Example : I would like to go to Nepal.

- E. **Activity** : Write, like diary entries, on the days in a calendar month what you will do during the month. (See A above) Now write in complete sentences what you will do.



Lesson 5.2 Writing descriptions - 2

Objectives: After you have studied the lesson you will be able



- to describe how amaranth is grown,
- to tell the meanings of these words: *contain, broadcast, thinning, spacing, pick, frequently.*

A. Look at the picture and then read the points about how amaranth is grown

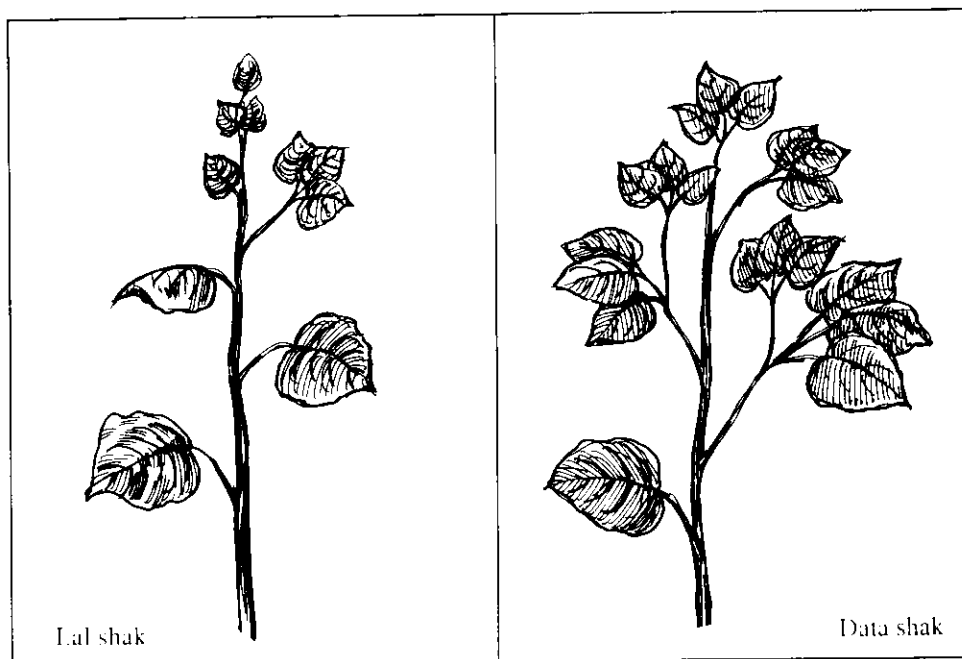


Fig 5.2 : Amaranth

Points

planting time	: all the year round
soil condition	: any soil with some compost or cowdung
spacing	: 3"-4" between plants
depth to plant seed	: ¼"
days to germination	: 4-6
planting instructions	: soil well-prepared—broadcast seeds—cover beds with soil — water beds
care	: soil moist until germination—begin thinning when the plants are 2-3 inches tall — weed the beds —put manure into the soils

- harvesting** : pick leaves frequently— collect the plants when needed
- usefulness** : source of vitamins and minerals

B. Read the model description to answer the following questions.

Amaranth

Amaranth known as 'lal Shak' and 'data shak' are popular vegetables in Bangladesh. It grows well everywhere and any time of the year. It grows in any soil that contains some compost or cowdung.

The seeds are broadcast in well-prepared soil at a depth of $\frac{1}{4}$ ". After the seeds are broadcast, proper care is necessary for germination. That is, the soil should be watered and kept moist until the seeds germinate in 4-6 days. Thinning should begin when the plants become 2-3 inches tall. This is the time when weeding should begin. To help leaf-growth liquid manure can be used in the soil.

Thinning should continue during the early days of the plants until there is spacing of 3'-4' between the plants. Leaves should be picked frequently so that garden-fresh amaranth could be eaten for quite a long time.

Both leaves and plants of amaranth are an excellent source of vitamins and minerals.



B1. Questions :

1. Which parts of Bangladesh grow amaranth well?
2. What kind of soil is suitable for the growth of amaranth?
3. How long does the germination of amaranth seeds take?
4. Why is thinning necessary for the young plants?
5. What food value does amaranth have?

C. Study these words.

- contain** (v) - to have (something). eg
This box contains some books. His statement contains some wrong information.
- broadcast** (v, pt & pp broadcast) - sow (seeds)
- thinning** (n from v thin, adj thin, opp fat) - making something thin.
You can do thinning to young seedlings by removing some of them. If the plants grow close together they are dense, not thin.

spacing (n)

- leaving space between (things). eg He has a daughter who is 12 years old and a son who is 8. The spacing is good. The amaranth plants in my garden has a spacing of 3'-4' between one another. This is good for their healthy growth.

pick (v)

- to pluck, gather

frequently (adv)

- often. eg He comes to see me frequently.



D. Self-assessment

Choose the best answer.

1. You can grow amaranth
 - a. in the rainy season.
 - b. in summer.
 - c. in winter.
 - d. in all the seasons.
2. The amaranth seeds are sown at a depth of
 - a. a quarter inch.
 - b. one inch.
 - c. four inches.
 - d. three-fourths of an inch.
3. Which is the correct statement?
 - a. You can weed the field by thinning.
 - b. You can start thinning immediately after sowing.
 - c. Weeding means removing plants from the field
 - d. Amaranth plants can be as tall as 2-3 inches.
4. Liquid manure may mean
 - a. just water.
 - b. cowdung.
 - c. tea leaves soaked in water.
 - d. chemical fertilizer.
5. What should we do to be able to eat the vegetables for quite a long time?
 - a. Keep the amaranth in the deep fridge.
 - b. Go on picking the leaves only as long as they are green.
 - c. Collect the amaranth from the field and eat its leaves, stems and roots one after another.
 - d. Dry the roots and keep it for cooking throughout the whole year.

Lesson 5.3 Writing descriptions - 3



Objectives: After you have studied the lesson you will be able

- to describe a rake,
- to describe how it is made and what it does,
- to explain its advantage and disadvantages.



A. Look at the picture and answer the following questions. Use the clues.

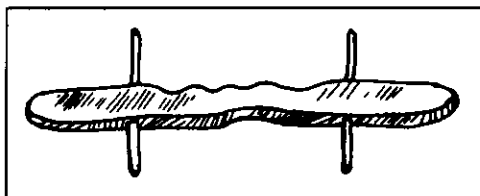


Fig 5.3 : The yoke

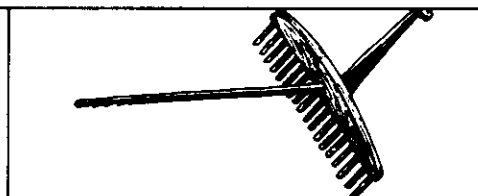


Fig 5.4 : The rake



A1. Questions :

1. What are its parts made of?
2. How is it made?
3. How can a farmer operate it?
4. What does it do?

Clues

Parts	Things needed to make	Advantage
body	wood	light in weight, is not very heavy
teeth	bamboo	loosening soil properly
beam	wood	thinning can be easily done
handle	wood	not very expensive
body of yoke	wood	can be locally made
yoke peg	bamboo/wood	

Operation Disadvantages

farmer at the handle	—	needs strong bullocks to draw
bullocks draw it	—	stepping on the tender plants harmful.

Functions

loosen soil
thin plants
control weeds

Example (Answer to question No 1):
Its teeth are made of bamboo. (etc.)

B. Join your answers (to questions under A above) together to form a paragraph which will describe a rake and its operation.



C. Describe the advantages and disadvantages of using the rake.



D. Self-assessment

Choose the best answer.

1. The handle and the beam of a rake ----- the main body of the rake.
 - a. are wood and bamboo to
 - b. are joined together with
 - c. can not be separated from
 - d. can operate without
2. Notches are made towards the top of the beam because they
 - a. help to fasten the rake with the yoke.
 - b. look very beautiful.
 - c. make the beam stronger.
 - d. cannot be made towards the bottom of the rake.
3. There are usually 13 teeth in a rake. If you fix more than 13 teeth in your rake
 - a. they can make the bullocks still work harder.
 - b. they can work more quickly.
 - c. they can remove more plants from the field
 - d. they last longer.

Lesson 5.4 Writing descriptions - 4



Objective: After you have studied the lesson, you will be able

■ to describe a village scene.

A. Look at the picture and write answers to the following questions.
A list of words that follows the questions will help you with your answers.

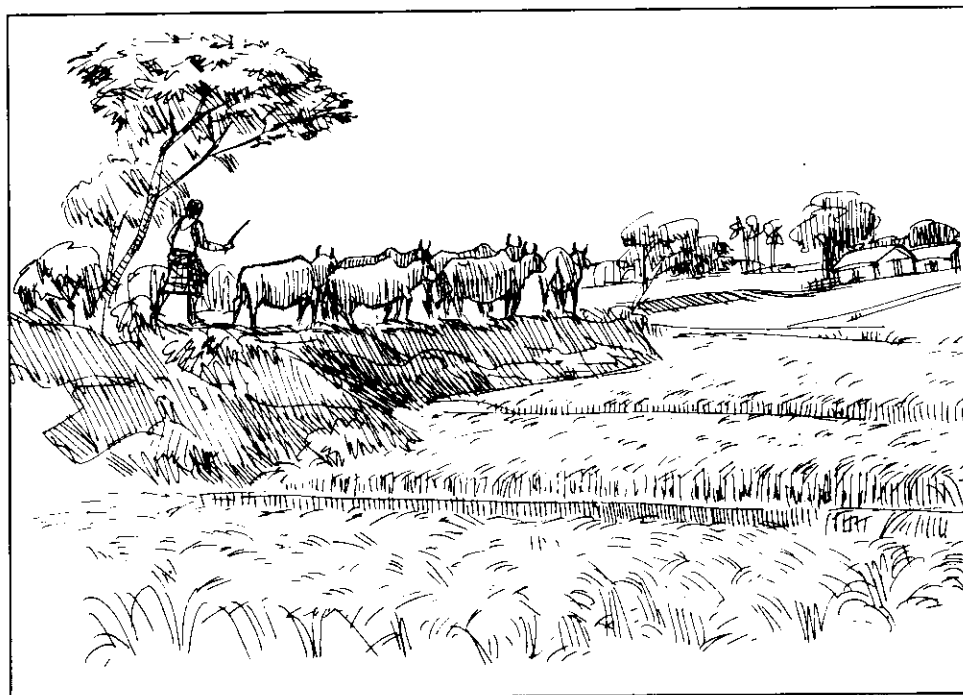


Fig 5.5 : A cowboy taking his cows to the field



A1. Questions :

1. How many people can you see? What are they doing?
2. Describe what each person is holding in his hand.
3. Where do you think are the animals going? Why?
4. Describe the boat on the right.
5. What can you see on the other side of the river?

Word list

stick	(A stick is used by the cowboy to guide/control his cows)
oar	(a pole with a flat blade. It is used for rowing a boat.)
rowing	(row= to move a boat through the water with oars)
pole	(a long straight round stick)
shed	(covering)
shore	(the edge of the land where it meets the water)



Example (No 1) : I can see three persons. One man is taking the cows to the field..... (etc.).

B. Activity : Combine your answers to all the five questions in A above to make a brief description of the scene in the picture. Your description should be limited to one paragraph only.

Activity : Do you like to live in such a village? Your answer could be either yes or no. Write a paragraph of about 100 words explaining why you like or dislike to live there.

C. Self-assessment

Choose the best answer.

1. Two men----- a boat with a shed.
 - a. rowing
 - b. will rowing
 - c. are rowing
 - d. are row
2. You can move a boat in a river with
 - a. a pole.
 - b. a shed.
 - c. water.
 - d. a cowboy's stick.
3. The cowboy is going to use his stick to
 - a. guide the cows to the field.
 - b. move a boat.
 - c. play with other cowboys.
 - d. protect himself from wild animals.

Lesson 5.5 Review and test

- A. Look at the calendar month used by Kamal as a diary. Now write what he did during the month.



September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Football match	2	3	4 Catching fish	5 Hair cut
6	7 Cousin's wedding	8	9	10 Dhaka	11	12
13	14	15 Picnic	16	17	18 Thana Agri Ext. Officer	19
20	21	22 Farmer's meeting	23	24	25 Adult edn centre	26
27	28	29 'Jatra'	30			



- B. *Activity* : Write about 200 words describing what you did yesterday.
- C. *Activity* : Write about 200 words describing what you will do after completing this course.
- D. *Activity* : Write how eggplants are grown, using the following hints.

Hints:

planting time: February, March, September and October

soil condition: Sandy soil with organic material

spacing: 24"-36" between rows 18"-24" between plants

depth to plant seeds: ½"

germination time: 6-14 days

planting instructions: Plant seeds in a seedbed. Transplant the seedlings about 15 days after sowing.

care: Support the young plants, each with a stick. Water them about once a week and give liquid fertilisers occasionally.

harvesting : In about 10 weeks time eggplants become ready for eating. Seed collection is easy.

E. Describe spades and their uses. The pictures and the points will help you to write your answer.

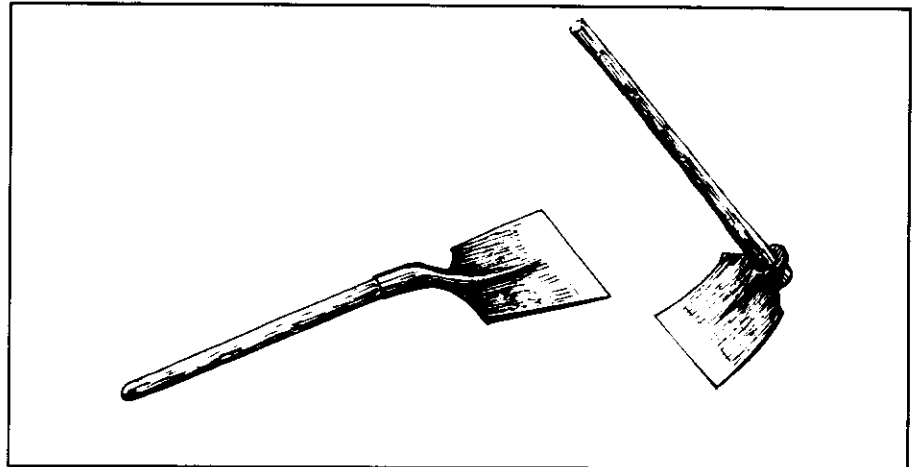


Fig 5.6 : Spades

Uses

- to make boundary lines of a plot
- to dig drains and ditches
- to break the soil
- to collect cowdung
- to clean rubbish
- to weed gardens

F. Look at the picture and answer the following questions.

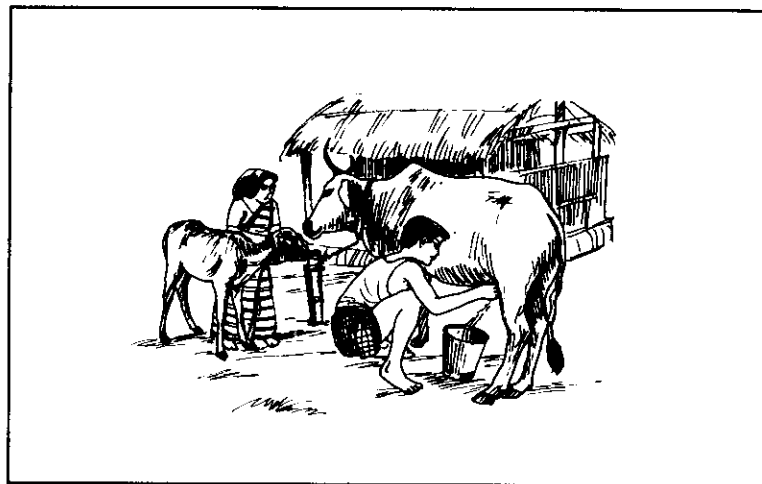


Fig 5.7 : Milking



F1. Questions :

1. Describe the houses and the surroundings.
2. What are the people doing?
3. How is she doing it?

hints:

- to extort milk from the udder
- a bucket



Answer Key Unit - 5

Lesson 5.1

- E. Use the next calendar month. That is, if the current month is August, use September. Write like diary entries on the days of the month (See Section A, Fig 5.1) what you are going to do during the month. Remember, the time of the activities will be future. So you will use expressions like these:

I will meet her at the airport on 5 July.

I am going to attend a training workshop at BRRI, Gazipur, (etc.)

Lesson 5.2

- D. 1. d, 2. a, 3. a, 4. c, 5. b

Lesson 5.3

- D. 1. b, 2. a, 3. c

Lesson 5.4

- C. 1. c, 2. a, 3. a