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SSLC ENGLISH

Intensive Coaching
Sessions

SESSIONS

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CHAPTER - 1 VANKA



About the author: Anton Chekhov (1860 – 1904)



Anton Pavlovich Chekhov was a Russian playwright and short-story writer, who is considered to be among the greatest writers of short fiction in history. He was born on 29 January 1860 in Taganrog, Russia. His famous works are ‘Three Sisters’, ‘The Cherry Orchard’, ‘The Lady with the Dog’, etc. Anton Chekhov was an outstanding representative of the late 19th century Russian realist school. He won the prestigious Russian literary award, the Pushkin Prize. He passed away on 15 July 1904 in Germany and rests in peace in Novodevichy Cemetery, Moscow.

Glossary: (Passage 1 -2)

1. **Apprentice (V)** : to put under the care of a master to learn a craft.
2. **Apprentice (N)** : A trainee, especially in a skilled trade.
3. **Go to bed**: to lie down to sleep.
4. **Eve**: the day or night before, usually used for holidays such as Christmas Eve.
5. **Rusty**: affected by rust
6. **Nib**: tip of a pen that transfers ink to paper.
7. **Spread out**: (here) unfold
8. **Crumpled**: crushed, wrinkled
9. **Tracing**: (here) finding, creating
10. **Glance (V)**: look briefly or hurriedly
11. **Glance (N)**: a brief or hasty look
12. **Peer** : look with difficulty
13. **Icon**: painting or carving on wood

14. **Cobbler:** a person whose job is mending shoes
15. **Last (N):** a block of wood shaped like a foot, used in making and repairing shoes
16. **Stretch :** extend
17. **Quivering:** shivering, shaking
18. **Sigh:** a deep and prolonged audible inspiration or respiration of air as when grieved or relieved
19. **Knelt:** (past tense of *kneel*) stayed or stood on knee.

Read passages 1 – 2 and answer the following questions

1. Why didn't Vanka go to bed on Christmas eve?
2. Why did he glance several times anxiously at the door and window?
3. Find a word from the passage synonymous with "looked".
4. "I have no Father and no Mummie." Express the same idea differently in another sentence beginning with "I am.....".
5. Analyze the following sentence and fill in the following table.

"The paper lay on the bench; Vanka knelt on the floor at the bench."

Noun phrase	Verb phrase	Prepositional phrase	Tense of the verb

(From SCERT Question Pool)

6. How long has Vanka been with Alyakhin?
7. What arrangement Vanka made to write the letter?
8. Pick out a word from the passage that means 'a block of wood shaped like a foot'.
9. What idea do you get about Vanka's life from the letter?

Glossary (Passage 3)

1. **Flicker :** to burn or shine unsteadily
2. **Distinctly:** clearly
3. **Lean:** slim
4. **Remarkably:** noticeably
5. **Agile:** able to move quickly and easily
6. **Bleary:** tired, dull, exhausted
7. **Wrapped:** covered, dressed
8. **Rattle (N):** a wooden object that makes a series of short loud sounds when you spin it round
9. **Drooping:** bending down, falling down
10. **Weasel-like:** like a weasel (a mammal like mongoose)
11. **Insinuate:** to succeed in gaining somebody's affection
12. **Appealing:** attractive
13. **Inspire:** infuse into the mind, create
14. **Deferential:** showing respect
15. **Docility (n), Docile (adj):** Readiness/ready to accept instructions
16. **Cloak:** a long outer garment. (here) a covering
17. **Jesuitical:** (here) cunning, deceitful, crafty
18. **Spite:** ill-will or hatred toward another

19. **Malice:** feeling a hatred for somebody that causes a desire to harm them, ill-will, wickedness
20. **Adept:** good at doing something that is quite difficult
21. **Stealing:** (here) moving silently
22. **Snap: (N)** (here) fastening device, trap, snare
23. **Snatch (V):** catch or seize quickly
24. **Hind-legs:** rear legs of the four-legged animals
25. **Slash:** cut
26. **Strung up :** tied up by rope (like to kill by hanging)
27. **Survive:** outlive, overcome a life-threatening event

Read passage 3 and answer the following questions.

10. Give a short description of Konstantin Makarich.
11. How did Konstantin Makarich spend his daytime?
12. Why were the Eel's deferential manner and docility said to be a cloak for the most Jesuitical spite and malice?
13. What were the specialties of the dog, Eel?
14. "Window-pane" and "grandfather" are examples of compound words. Search for other five compound words in the passage.
15. Pick out a word from the passage that is opposite in meaning to the word 'vaguely'.

Glossary (passage 4)

1. **Screw up:** to twist
2. **Stump:** walk heavily
3. **Felt boots(n):** boots made of matted fibres of wool, skin or hide
4. **Fastened :** tied, connected
5. **Hug:** embrace, to hold fast
6. **Titter:(N)** a short half-suppressed laugh or giggle
7. **Pinch (N):** a small amount of something, such as a powder, especially the amount that a person can hold between their first finger and thumb
8. **Pinch (v):** grip (something, typically a person's flesh) tightly and sharply between finger and thumb.
9. **Sneeze:** (V) make a sudden involuntary expulsion of air from the nose and mouth.
10. **Snuff (N):** powdered tobacco
11. **Snuff (v):** inhale or sniff up something like powdered tobacco
12. **Offended:** annoyed or upset
13. **Wag:** move rapidly to and fro
14. **Glorious:** (here) enjoyable, pleasant, splendid
15. **Still:** calm
16. **Transparent:** (here) clear
17. **Rime:** frost
18. **Snow-drift:** a bank of deep snow heaped up by the wind.
19. **Distinctly:** clearly
20. **Sprinkled:** spread or covered with small particles of something
21. **Gaily:** in a cheerful way
22. **Scrub:** (v) rub hard so as to clean

Read passages 4 and 5 and answer the following questions.

16. How would the granddad interact with the maids or the cooks?
17. How would Kashtanka and Eel react to the grandfather's offer of snuff?
18. How was the sky described to be seen in the passage?
19. Search for a synonym for "clearly" in the passage.
20. "The women would take a pinch." Rewrite the sentence starting with "A pinch..."

(From SCERT Question Pool)

21. What would granddad be doing on Christmas eve?
22. Read the conversation between the granddad and the servant woman.

Granddad: Have a pinch from the snuffbox.

Servant woman: I don't like its smell.

- a) What did granddad ask the servant woman? b) What did the servant woman reply?

23. How does the author describe the climate of the place?
24. Identify a word from the passage that means 'to rub something hard in order to clean it'.
25. "The Milky Way stood out as clearly as if newly scrubbed for the holiday". Write another sentence using "as if".

Glossary (Passage 6)

1. **Hiding (n):** physical punishment usually involving being hit hard many times
2. **Stirrup:** foot rest connected to the saddle of a horse and used by horse-riders
3. **Gut (v):** to remove the organs from inside a fish or an animal to prepare it for cooking
4. **Herring (n):** a type of small oily fish
5. **Tavern :** an inn
6. **Vodka:** an alcoholic liquor popular in Russia
7. **Gruel:** a simple dish made by boiling oats in milk or water (kanji)
8. **Gobble: (v)** to eat or drink very fast as if greedy
9. **Rock (v):** move something gently to and fro or from side to side.
10. **Implore:** beg earnestly for
11. **Twitch (v):** make a sudden movement
12. **Fist (n):** hand with the fingers folded inward
13. **Sob (n):** an act of weeping or sobbing
14. **Flog (v):** beat or strike with a rod or a whip
15. **Steward (n):** (here) a servant, or attendant
16. **Look after :** take care of, protect

Read the passages 6 and 7 from the story 'Vanka' and answer the following questions.

26. Why did the master beat Vanka with a stirrup-strap?
27. How did the other apprentices treat Vanka?
28. Write two promises that Vanka made to his granddad.
29. "I can't bear it" is an expression from the first passage. There is another expression in the last passage similar to it in meaning and structure. What is it?
30. What is a single word used here that means "a physical punishment by beating and hitting".

(From SCERT Question Pool)

31. What did the cruel mistress do to Vanka?
32. Identify the sentence from the passage which says that Vanka is not well fed by his master.
33. Read the conversation between Vanka and his mistress:

Mistress: Why did you gut the herring from its tail?

Vanka: I have seen my mother doing so. Now, complete the sentences given below.

- a. The mistress asked Vanka.....
- b. Vanka replied.....

Glossary (Passages 8 - 9)

1. **fierce** : violent, ferocious
2. **Sheat-fish**: the largest fresh water fish in Europe
3. **Rouble**: the basic monetary unit of Russia
4. **Butcher** (n): meat-seller
5. **Grouse** : a bird with a fat body and feathers on its legs, which people shoot for sport and food
6. **Glided**: covered with a thin layer of gold or gold paint
7. **Chest**: (here) box

Glossary (passages 10 – 11)

1. **Gaze**: look steadily
2. **Gentry**: people belonging to a high social class
3. **Chuckle**: (v) laugh quietly or inwardly
4. **Chuckle (N)**: a quiet or suppressed laugh
5. **Frost-bound**: covered with frost
6. **Chopping down**: cutting down
7. **Motionless**: not moving, stationary
8. **Swift**: fast, rapid
9. **Could never help shouting**: had to shout (idiomatic usage: can't help + ing form of a verb = meaning unable avoid a situation or unable to stop something from happening)
10. **Stub-tailed** : having only stub or remnant of a tail
11. **Amuse**: cause to be happy or funny
12. **Quadrille** : a dance with four or more couples

Read the passages 10 and 11 and answer the following questions.

34. "Oh, what happy times those had been!" What were those times mentioned here?
35. According to Vanka how did the fir-trees behave before being chopped down?
36. *When others chuckled Vanka could not control himself and he chuckled too.* Rewrite this sentence using the expression "can't help + ...ing".
37. How did Olga Ignatyevna become Vanka's favourite?
38. Vanka learned to read and write from Olga. But he could not continue it. Why?
39. If Palageya had not died, (Complete the sentence appropriately)

Glossary (Passages 12- 15)

1. **Concertina**: a small musical instrument
2. **Kopek** : a unit of Russian currency. 100 kopek = 1 Rouble
3. **Pause** : stop

4. **Pleased:** happy, satisfied
5. **Precious:** valuable
6. **Slit:** a long, narrow opening or split
7. **Lull :** to make somebody relaxed or send calmly to sleep
8. **Rosy:** rose-like; (here) promising, encouraging
9. **Stove-ledge:** projecting platform-like part attached to a stove/cooking range
10. **Dangling:** hanging loosely
11. **Wagging:** waving, moving to and fro.

Read the passages 12 – 15 and answer the following questions.

40. In these passages there is a metaphorical sentence that sums up the whole miserable story of Vanka into it. What is the sentence?
41. What was his one thing that Vanka doesn't want to give anyone?
42. Finally he posted his precious letter. Why was the letter so precious concerning Vanka?
43. What could be the rosy hopes of Vanka that lulled him to good sleep?
44. "He put on his cap and ran out into the street". Replace the phrasal verb "put on" with another single-word verb suitably.
45. What were the things Vanka dreamed of in his sleep?

Answers to questions based on the Textual Passages

1. Vanka wanted to write secretly a letter to his grandfather. So he waited without going to bed till his master, mistress and senior apprentices had gone to church.
2. He was very anxious and afraid as he was writing a secret letter. He wanted to make sure that nobody was watching him.
3. The word "glanced" is synonymous with 'looked'.
4. "I am an orphan".
5. **Noun phrases:** *The paper; Vanka.* **Verb phrases:** *lay on the bench; knelt on the floor.* **Prepositional phrases:** *on the bench; on the floor; at the bench.* **Tense of the verbs:** *Simple past.*
6. Vanka has been with Alyakhin for three months.
7. He kept with him in a cupboard a bottle of ink, a pen with a rusty nib and a crumbled piece of paper.
8. 'Last' is the word.
9. We get the idea that he is an orphan and he has only his grandfather left as a relative.
10. He was a small, lean, old man about sixty-five, but remarkable lively and agile with a smiling face and eyes bleary with drink.
11. He spent his day time either by sleeping in the back kitchen or sat joking with the cook and kitchen-maids.
12. Under the cover of Eel's deferential manner and docility, he was actually very naughty. He was an adept at stealing, creeping into the ice-house or snatching a peasant's chicken.
13. Eel had the black coat and long weasel-like body; he is wonderfully respectful and insinuating. He turned an appealing glance on everyone but inspired confidence in no one, and his deferential manner and docility were a cloak for his spite and malice.
14. 'Grandfather', 'watchman', 'gentlefolk', 'daytime', 'kitchen-maids'.
15. 'Distinctly' is the word.
16. He would fool with the servants and pinch a maid or one of the cooks. He would offer them snuff, shout and laugh in jolly and delight when they sneeze.

17. Kshtanka would sneeze, shake her head and walk away offended. Eel would wag his tail and would not sneeze.
18. The sky was sprinkled with gaily stars and the Milky Way stood out as clearly as if newly scrubbed for the holiday and polished with snow.
19. 'Distinctly' is the word.
20. 'A pinch would be taken by the women'.
21. He would be standing at the gate looking at the bright red light from the church windows or stumping about in his felt boots, fooling with the servants.
22. a) Granddad asked the servant woman to have a pinch from the snuff box.

b) The servant woman replied that she didn't like the smell of that.
23. The weather was glorious with the air still, transparent and fresh.
24. The word is 'Scrub'.
25. The sky seemed dark and cloudy as if it would rain.
26. The master beat Vanka because he slept by mistake while rocking their child.
27. The other apprentices made fun of him, sent him to the tavern for vodka and made him steal the master's cucumbers.
28. Vanka would grind snuff for his grandpa. He would pray for his grandpa.
29. 'I can't stand it'.
30. The word 'Hiding' means "a physical punishment by beating and hitting".
31. She rubbed his face with the head of a herring.
32. 'They give me bread in the morning and gruel for dinner and in the evening bread again, but I never get tea or cabbage soup.' They gobble it all up themselves.
33. a) The mistress asked Vanka why he had gutted the herring from its tail.

b) Vanka replied that he had seen his mother doing that.
34. The days just before Christmas, when Vanka was in his village, were mentioned as those happy times. He would go with the grandfather to get a Christmas tree and they would all decorate it. His mother was also alive at that time.
35. The young fir-trees stood motionless waiting to see which one of them was going to die.
36. When others chuckled, Vanka could not help chuckling.
37. Olga used to give him sweets, taught him to read, write, count up to a hundred and even to dance the quadrille.
38. He could not continue his learning because after the death of his mother he was sent to his grandfather to the back-kitchen and from there to Moscow, to Alyakhin the shoemaker.
39. If Palegaya had not died, Vanka would not have been sent to Moscow.
40. "I have such a miserable life worse than a dog's".
41. Vanka doesn't want to give his concertina to anyone.
42. Vanka earnestly wants to escape from Alyakhin. He hopes his grandfather will come and save him once he gets the letter. The letter is only his hope and so it is precious.
43. Vabka hopes that his grandfather will get the letter and he will soon come and take him back to his beloved village.
44. "He wore his cap and ran out into the street".
45. He dreamed of a stove and on the stove-ledge his granddad sitting and reading his letter to the cooks. The dog Eel was walking to and fro wagging his tail.

Textual Activities

Vanka

➤ (Activity 8, textbook page 19)

Write a letter to the editor of a newspaper describing the sad plight of children who are victims of the social evil of child labour and the need to uplift them.

**Subhash Colony
Lane No.9
Thrissur.
10 March 2018**

**The editor,
Indian Express Daily,
Thrissur.**

Dear Sir,

I am a tenth standard student and resident of the Subhash Colony in Thrissur town. I would like to bring to your kind attention the evil of child labour that still prevails in our society despite there are many laws in our country to prevent and eradicate it.

Today's children are tomorrow's citizens and they must not be deprived of their rights. Some illiterate and poor parents send their children to earn instead of sending them to learn. In factories and fields children are exploited both physically and mentally. In fact, in work-places child-labourers are treated cruelly and paid meagerly.

I request you to prepare a write-up and publish it in your newspaper in order to bring this issue into light and create a social awareness against it.

Thanking you in advance,

Yours faithfully,

**Sd/
Sudheesh K**

➤ (Activity 2, textbook page 21)

Prepare a list of phrasal verbs with ‘put’ and use them in sentences of your own.

Phrasal Verb	Meaning	Example sentence
Put across	Communicate / Convey an idea	I was trying to put across my ideas, but nobody was listening.
Put down	Suppress	Finally the police managed to put down the communal revolt.
Put back	Return / put something where it was previously	Please put back the laptop in the shelf after your use.
Put off	Postpone	Due to heavy rain, the tournament committee has decided to put off today’s match.
Put forward/ Put forth	Suggest / propose	Our government has put forward many waste management plans.
Put up with	Tolerate	I cannot put up with the habit of smoking in public places.
Put up	Construct / build	Police have put up barricades across the road to prevent protesters.
Put out (news, magazine etc.)	Publish	Our school literary club puts out a monthly magazine in English.
Put out (fire)	Extinguish	The firemen put out the blaze and saved people from the burning house.
Put on	Wear	Vanka put on his hat and ran out into the street.

➤ (Activity 2, textbook page 23)

Kinds of Sentences

There are mainly four kinds of sentences in English:

1. **Declarative or Assertive sentences.** They make always statements, begin with a capital letter and end with a full-stop.

E.g. *Vanka is a nine year old boy. Vanka knelt on the floor at the bench.*

I am writing a letter to you.

2. **Imperative sentences.** They are used to make commands or requests and begin with a capital letter and end with a full-stop.

Go and bring vodka. Observe him. Please, answer me. Please come and save me.

3. **Interrogative sentences.** They are used to ask questions, begin with a capital letter and end with question mark.

What are you hiding? How are we going to swim across it? Do you come to take me?

4. **Exclamatory sentences.** They are used to express surprises or sudden emotions. They begin with a capital letter and end with an exclamation mark.

Oh, what happy times those had been! What a wonderful sight! How beautifully she sings!

(Discussion: Out of four kinds, two kinds of sentences end with a full-stop. One is statement, also known as declarative or assertive and the other one is imperative. The sentences ending with a question mark are interrogative sentences. The fourth kind is exclamatory sentences and they end with an exclamation mark.)

➤ (Activity 3, Page 24)

Contracted forms

- Contracted forms are used in written and spoken English usually in informal occasions.
- Auxiliary verbs are contracted.
- In written English, contractions are marked by an apostrophe mark.

Forms of Be

Positive / Affirmative		Negative	
<i>Long form</i>	<i>Contracted form</i>	<i>Long form</i>	<i>Contracted form</i>
I am	I'm	I am not	I'm not
He is	He's	He is not	He isn't
You are	You're	You are not	You aren't
		She was not	She wasn't
		They were not	They weren't

Forms of Do

Positive / Affirmative		Negative	
<i>Long form</i>	<i>Contracted form</i>	<i>Long form</i>	<i>Contracted form</i>
		I do not	I don't
		He does not	He doesn't
		He did not	He didn't

Forms of Have

Positive / Affirmative		Negative	
<i>Long form</i>	<i>Contracted form</i>	<i>Long form</i>	<i>Contracted form</i>
I have	I've	I have not	I haven't
He has	He's	He has not	He hasn't
I had	I'd	I had not	I hadn't

Modal auxiliaries			
Positive / Affirmative		Negative	
Long form	Contracted form	Long form	Contracted form
I will	I'll	I will not	I won't
He would	He'd	He would not	He wouldn't
		I shall not	I shan't
		I should not	I shouldn't
		I can not	I can't
		I could not	I couldn't
		I may not	I mayn't
		I might not	I mightn't
		I dare not	I daren't
		I must not	I mustn't
		Need not	Needn't
		Ought not	Oughtn't
		Used not	Usedn't

Now, write the short forms of the words given in brackets.

- (Textbook page 25)
 1. You *shouldn't* talk so much. (Should not)
 2. *They've* written the text. (They have)
 3. *Let's* go for a movie. (Let us)
 4. I *couldn't* find my pen. (Could not)
 5. *Who's* this girl singing the song? (Who is)

- (Activity 4, textbook page 25)

Negative and Positive/affirmative sentences

Normally, affirmative or positive sentences are transformed to negative sentences by adding **not** or its contracted form **n't** to the auxiliary verbs. If there is no auxiliary verb in the sentence, an appropriate form of **Do** (do, does, did) is used to get **not** or **n't** added.

Words like *never, nothing, none, nobody, nowhere, little, few, seldom, rarely, scarcely, hardly, barely* etc. can make sentences negative.

Affirmative / Positive	Negative
I am writing a letter to you.	I am not writing a letter to you.
The boys are playing on the ground.	The boys are not playing on the ground.
The students have completed their work.	The students have not completed their work.
I visited my sister yesterday.	I did not visit my sister yesterday.
Amar wants to become a pilot.	Amar doesn't want to become a pilot.

Some people drive recklessly.	Some people don't drive recklessly.
Raghu is reading a novel.	Raghu is not reading a novel.
The woman carried a basket.	The woman didn't carry a basket.
The problem was very difficult.	The problem was not very difficult.
The boy works hard.	The boy doesn't work hard.
It rains heavily.	It does not rain heavily.
Most of the students read textbook at home.	Most of the students do not read textbook at home.
I always get tea or cabbage soup.	I never get tea or cabbage soup.
There is something for me to eat.	There is nothing for me to eat.

Note: All the above sentences change their meaning when transformed from positive to negative. Sometimes, we have to transform sentences from affirmative to negative without changing their meaning. The easiest way to do this exercise is to use words/phrases having the opposite meaning of the words/phrases in the given sentences.

➤ **Transform the following sentences without changing the meaning.**

Affirmative / Positive	Negative
Moscow is a big town.	Moscow is not a small town.
The problem is difficult.	The problem is not easy.
Anu writes very fast.	Anu does not write very slowly.
The water was polluted.	The water was not pure.
Alyakhin was a cruel person.	Alyakhin was not a kind person.
The dog Eel was always respectful.	The dog Eel was never disrespectful.
It was a dark night.	It was not a moonlit night.
I have a miserable life worse than a dog's.	I don't have a comfortable life better than a dog's.

➤ (Activity 5, textbook page 27)

Subject and Predicate

In every sentence there are two parts - the **Subject**: the person or thing we speak about; the **Predicate**: the part which tells about the subject. The predicate provides information about the subject, such as what the subject is, what the subject is doing, or what the subject is like. The subject can be a single noun/pronoun/gerund or a noun phrase (NP) and the predicate can be a single verb or a verb phrase (VP).

Sentence	
Subject	Predicate
<i>Noun phrase</i>	<i>Verb phrase</i>
<u>Vanka</u>	<i>knelt on the floor at the bench.</i>
<u>The paper</u>	<i>lay on the bench.</i>
<u>The other apprentices</u>	<i>make fun of him.</i>
<u>The young fir-tree</u>	<i>stood motionless.</i>
<u>It</u>	<i>was a dark night.</i>
<u>Vanka</u>	<i>could not sleep properly.</i>
<u>Smoking</u>	<i>is a bad habit.</i>

(**Discussion:** The underlined words are nouns/noun phrases acting as the subjects of the sentences. They are comprised of determiners (the) and adjectives (other, young). The predicate parts – verb phrases – contain main verbs, auxiliary verbs, prepositional phrases, adverbs, adjectives etc.)

➤ (Textbook page 28)

Fill in the following table analyzing the verb phrases of given sentences.

1. *The boys played football on the ground.*
2. *The market was busy in the evening.*
3. *The girls are dancing gracefully.*
4. *We will have a party next weekend.*
5. *My mother stores pickles in a big jar.*

Subject	Predicate					
Noun phrase	Verb phrase					
	Verb	Noun phrase (object)	Adverbial phrase	Adjectival (subject/object complement)	Prepositional phrase	Tense
<i>The boys</i>	<i>played</i>	<i>football</i>			<i>on the ground.</i>	Simple past
<i>The market</i>	<i>was</i>			<i>busy</i>	<i>In the evening.</i>	Simple past
<i>The girls</i>	<i>are dancing</i>		<i>gracefully</i>			Present progressive
<i>We</i>	<i>will have</i>	<i>a party</i>			<i>next weekend.</i>	Simple future
<i>My mother</i>	<i>stores</i>	<i>pickles</i>			<i>In a big jar.</i>	Simple present
<i>The young fig-tree</i>	<i>stood</i>			<i>motionless.*</i>		Simple past
<i>The letter</i>	<i>made</i>	<i>the grandfather her</i>		<i>emotional.**</i>		Simple past

* ‘**motionless**’ is an adjective that modifies the subject noun phrase (The young fig-tree) and thus becomes a subject complement.

** ‘**emotional**’ is an adjective that modifies the object noun phrase (the grandfather) and thus becomes an object complement.

Additional Activities

➤ Analyse the following sentences and identify the Noun Phrases, Verb Phrases, Prepositional Phrases, Head Nouns, Head Verbs, Prepositions, Object of Prepositions.

1. *‘Nine year old Vanka Zhukov, who had been apprenticed three months ago to Alyakhin the shoe maker, *did not go to bed on Christmas eve.’*

Noun Phrase in the Subject position =	<i>Nine year old Vanka Zhukov, who had been apprenticed three months ago to Alyakhin the shoe maker</i>
Head Noun =	<i>Vanka Zhukov</i>
Verb Phrase =	<i>did not go to bed on Christmas eve</i>
Head Verb=	<i>go</i>

Prepositional Phrase=	<i>on Christmas eve</i>
Preposition=	<i>On</i>
Object of Preposition=	<i>eve</i>

*'go to bed' is an idiomatic phrase (the negative being 'did not go to bed') acting as the verb of the above sentence. So, 'to bed' is not considered as an independent prepositional phrase, but is a part of the verb.

- **2. *Vanka's grandfather had become a night watchman on the estate of some gentlefolk called Zhivarev.***

Noun Phrase in the Subject position=	<i>Vanka's grandfather</i>
Head Noun in the Subject position=	<i>grandfather</i>
Verb Phrase=	<i>had become a night watchman on the estate of some gentlefolk called Zhivarev.</i>
Head Verb=	<i>Become</i>
Noun Phrase in the object/complement position=	<i>a night watchman on the estate of some gentlefolk called Zhivarev.</i>
Head Noun in the object/complement position=	<i>Watchman</i>
Prepositional Phrase=	<i>On the estate, of some gentlefolk</i>
Prepositions=	<i>On, Of</i>
Object of Preposition	<i>estate, gentlefolk</i>

- ***Anton chekhov's story 'Vanka' subtly raises questions against the social evil of child labour. Write a review of the story focusing on the theme and character of the nine year old boy Vanka.***

Vanka- a victimized child-labourer

“Vanka” is a short story by Anton Chekhov, the famous Russian writer. The plot of the story is the plight of the children who are victims of child labour. The nine year boy Vanka is presented as a representative of children victimized to the social evil of child labour. His innocence and ignorance when writing hopefully a letter to his grandfather and posting it without writing proper address and stamp appeal much to the readers.

When his mother died his grandfather sent him to Moscow. He could not complete his primary education. He was apprenticed to Alyakhin, a shoemaker. His master Alyakhin and his wife treated him cruelly. He had to do all the household work. They beat him often for silly matters. He was not provided good food or place to sleep. Other apprentices made fun of him. They forced him to steal cucumber and persuaded him to buy vodka from the tavern.

In short, the little boy's life in Moscow was worse than that of a dog's. He said it in his letter to grandfather and begged him to come and save him from Alyakhin. He also had very strong nostalgic feeling of his village life, especially at the time of Christmas. He liked very much his grandfather's dogs and Miss Olga, his favorite. His sufferings at his workplace and feelings of homesickness he mentioned in his letter are enough for the readers to experience the grievous state of the child labourers. His begging to his grandfather and his promises are enough to create a dejected and dull mood in readers' mind and wet their eyes. Anton Chekhov has succeeded in making every reader of Vanka curse severely the evil of child labour.

➤ *Vanka is writing a letter to his grandpa explaining his sufferings at Alyakhin's place.*

**Alyakhin Shoes Co.
17th Street
Moscow.
20 March 2018.**

My dear Grandpa,

How are you grandpa? I hope you are doing well. I don't have anything good to tell you. I am suffering a lot here. I cannot stay any longer here. My life is worse than that of a dog. All people here are treating me like an animal. I don't have enough food and time to sleep. I have only empty stomach and sleepless nights but always have hard work. I wonder why you sent me here!

When I think of my life with you, our Christmas celebrations, our dogs, I cannot stay any longer here. I would have escaped from here If I had had a pair of shoes. My dear grandpa, I have nobody in this world except you. Please come and save me. Otherwise, I will die here. Hoping to meet you soon,

Yours affectionately,

**Sd/
Vanka**

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