PART IV
DIALOGUE-WRITING
INTRODUCTION

Dialogue is a conversation between two or more persons on a certain topic. It is very difficult to write a good dialogue in any language because of the fact that the pen cannot be as fluent as the tongue. Particularly the case is true for an Indian student who learns their English from books, and not from talking with Englishmen. So it is a known fact that although our students often talk English together, the English they use is not conversational, it is rather bookish.

It is, therefore, imperative that to write good dialogues students should be acquainted with conversational English, and this they may profitably do by turning to modern novels, short stories and plays in which conversation plays a prominent part.

Like all the other forms of composition dialogue has a definite end. Like an essay it has a beginning, a middle and an end. So before going to write dialogue the subject-matter should be properly analyzed and it should contain precise and clear expressions of thought in a logical order. Moreover, personality and individual character should be reflected through the conversations of different persons.

To write a good dialogue you should always bear the following points in mind:

1. You should think over the subject on which you are going to attempt a dialogue more than once and that very carefully.

2. You should express your ideas in a logical order and that in an easy and idiomatic language.

3. Dialogue should be brief, lively and to the point.

4. In order to make the dialogue a pleasant reading you should introduce with humour and homely touches wherever possible.
5. The language of different persons in the dialogue should be appropriate to their age, rank or position. Precisely, a student should talk like a student and teacher, like a teacher.

6. Each speaker should put forward his views in such a way that they reach logically to its natural conclusion.

7. The language of a dialogue should be conversational, and so abbreviated forms should be used wherever possible.

8. In order to acquaint you with the good specimens of conversational English are given below a few specimens of English dialogues written by noted writers:

(a) A conversation between Alexander the Great and the Thracian Robber:

_Alexander._ What! Art thou the Thracian Robber of whose exploits I have heard so much?

_Robber._ I am a Thracian and a soldier.

_Alexander._ A soldier!—a thief, a plunderer, an assassin! the pest of the country! I could honour thy courage, but I must detest and punish thy crimes.

_Robber._ What have I done of which you can complain?

_Alexander._ Hast thou not set at defiance my authority, violated the public peace, and passed thy life in injuring the persons and properties of my fellow-subjects?

_Robber._ Alexander! I am your captive. I must hear what you please to say, and endure what you please to inflict. But my soul is unconquered; and if I reply at all to your reproaches, I will reply like a free man.

_Alexander._ Speak freely. Far be it from me to take the advantage of my power to silence those with whom I deign to converse,
Robber. I must then answer your question by another; how have you passed your life?

Alexander. Like a hero. Ask Fame and she will tell you. Among the brave, I have been the bravest; among sovereigns, the noblest; among conquerers, the mightiest.

Robber. And does not Fame speak of me, too? Was there ever a bolder Captain of a more valiant band? Was there ever—but I scorn to boast. You yourself know that I have not been easily subdued.

Alexander. Still what are you but a robber—a base, dishonest robber?

Robber. And what is a conquerer? Have not you, too, gone about the earth like an evil genius, blasting the fair fruits of peace and industry; plundering, ravaging, killing, without justice, merely to gratify an insatiable lust for domination? All that I have done to a single district with a hundred followers, you have done to whole nations with a hundred thousand. If I have stripped individuals, you have ruined kings and princes. If I have burned a few hamlets, you have desolated the most flourishing kingdoms and cities of the earth. What is then the difference but that, as you were born a king and I a private man, you have been able to become a mightier robber than I?

Alexander. But if I have taken like a king, I have given like a king. If I have subverted empires, I have founded greater. I have cherished arts, commerce and philosophy.

Robber. I, too, have freely given to the poor what I took from the rich. I have established order and disci-
pline among the most ferocious of mankind, and have stretched out my protecting arm over the oppressed. I know, indeed, little of the philosophy you talk of; but, I believe neither you nor I shall ever repay to the world the mischief we have done it.

Alexander. Leave me. Take off his chains and use him well. (Exit robber) Are we, then, so much alike? Alexander. too, a robber? Let me reflect.

—Adapted from Evenings At Home

(b) A conversation between King Canute and his courtiers

Canute. Is it true, my friends, what you have so often told me, that I am the greatest of monarchs?

Offald. It is true, Sir; you are the most powerful of all kings.

Iswald. We are all your slaves, we kiss the dust of your feet.

Offald. Not only we, but even the elements are your slaves. The land obeys you from shore to shore and the sea obeys you.

Canute. Does the sea, with its wild boisterous waves obey me? Will that terrible element be still at my bidding?

Offald. Yes, the sea is yours; it was made to bear your ships upon its bosom and to bring the treasures of the world at your feet. It is boisterous to your enemies, but it knows you to be its sovereign.

Canute. Is not the tide coming up?

Oswald. Yes, Sir, you may perceive the swell already.

Canute. Bring me a chair there; set it here upon the sands.

Offald. Where the tide is coming up my gracious Lord?

Canute. Yes, set it just here. (They place the chair) O mighty ocean! Thou art my subject, my courtiers
tell me so; and it is thy bounden duty to obey me. Thus, then, I stretch my sceptre over there, and command thee to retire. Roll back thy swelling waves, not let them presume to wet the foot of me, thy royal master.

Offald. See, how fast the tide rises.

Oswald. The next wave will come up to the hair. It is folly to stay; we shall be covered with salt water.

Canute. Well, does the sea obey my commands? If it be my subject, it is a very rebellious subject. See how it swells, and dashes the angry foam and salt over my sacred person. Vile sycophants! did you think I was the dupe of your false lies? That I believed your abject flatteries? Know there is only one being whom the sea will obey. He is Sovereign of heaven and earth. King of kings and Lord of Lords. It is only He, who can say to the ocean, "Thus far shalt thou go, but no farther and here shall thy proud waves be stayed." A king is but a man, and a man is but a worm. Shall a worm assume the power of the Great God, and think the elements will obey him? Take away this crown, I will never wear it more. May kings learn to be humble from my example, and courtiers learn truth from your disgrace.

—Adapted from Evenings At Home

(c) A conversation between a mother and her daughter who is visiting a great city for the first time

[The little girls is called Rosamond. On walking alone the street she arrives with her mother in front of a shoe-maker's shop.]

"There, there! mamma, there are shoes; there are little
shoes that would just fit me, and you know shoes would really of use to me."

"Yes, so they would, Rosamond. come in."

"Well Rosamond," said the mother, when they had entered the shop and were waiting for the shoe-maker, who was busy with other customers, "you don't think this shop so pretty as the rest?"

"No, not nearly, it is black and dark, and there is nothing but all around, and, besides, there's a very disagreeable smell."

"That smell is the smell of new leather."

"Is it? Oh!" said Rosamond, looking around, "there is pair of little shoes; they'll just fit me, I'm sure."

Perhaps they might; you can't be sure till you have tried them on, any more than you can be quite sure that you would like the purple pot in that shop exceedingly, till you have examined it more attentively."

"Why, I don't know about the shoes, certainly, till I have tried, but mamma, I am quite sure that I would like the flowerpot."

Well which would you rather have, a jar or a pair of shoes? I will buy either for you."

"Dear mamma, thank you—but I'd you would buy both?"

"No, not both."

—Maria Edgeworth

(d) Epimeetheus was an orphan boy and Pandora an orphan girl who lived in the same house. One day a man brought a wonderful box to their house and asked the boy and the girl not to open it. Being curious to know what is in the box, Pandora asks Epimeetheus questions about it.

"Epimeetheus, what have you in that box?"

"My dear little Pandora," he answered, "that is a secret, and you must not ask any questions about it; I do not myself know what it contains."
"But who gave it to you?" asked Pandora. "And where did it come from?"

"That is a secret too," replied Epimetheus.

"How provoking!" exclaimed Pandora. "I wish the great, ugly box were out of the way!"

"O come, don't think of it any more," cried Epimetheus. "Let us run out of doors, and have some nice play with the other children."

"Whence can the box have come?" Pandora continuously kept saying to herself and Epimetheus. "And what on earth can be inside it?"

"Always talking about this box!" exclaimed Epimetheus at last; "I wish, dear Pandora, you would try to talk of something else. Come, let us go and gather some ripe figs, and eat them under the trees."

"Always talking about grapes and figs!" cried Pandora pettishly.

"Well, then," said Epimetheus. "let no run out and have a merry time with our playmates."

"I am tired of merry times, and don't care if I never have any more!" answered our pettish little Pandora. "And, besides, I never do have any. This ugly box! I am so taken up with thinking about it all the time. I insist upon your telling me what is inside it." —N Hawthorne

(c) Tom Tulliver meets Philip Wakem, a new schoolfellow who knows drawing. Philip takes a piece of paper and begins drawing.

Tom suddenly walked across the hearth, and looked over Philip's paper:

"Why, that's a donkey—and a spaniel, and partridges in the corn!" he exclaimed in admiration, "O my buttons!
I wish I could draw like that. I'm to learn drawing—wonder if I shall learn to make dogs and donkeys!"

"Oh, you can do them without learning," said Philip; "I never learned drawing."

"Never learned?" said Tom in amazement: "Why, why I make dogs and horses, and those things, the heads and the legs won't come right; though I can see how they ought to be very well. I can make houses, and all sorts of chimneys. But I dare say I could do dogs and horses if I was to try more."

"Oh, yes," said Philip, "it's very easy. You've only to look well at things, and draw them over and over again. What you do once, you can alter the next time."

"But haven't you been taught anything? I thought you'd been to school a long while," said Tom.

"Yes," said Philip, smiling, "I've been taught Latin Greek and mathematics—and writing and such things."

"Oh, but I say, you don't like Latin, though, do you?" said Tom.

"Pretty well; I don't care much about it," said Philip. "Then you won't have the same lessons as I shall?" said Tom, with a sense of disappointment.

"No; but I dare say I can help you. I shall be very glad to help you if I can." —George Eliot.

(1) A dialogue between Mr. Pickwick, a humorous character of an English novel of the same name and Mrs. Bardell.

"Mrs. Bardell," said Mr. Pickwick, at last, as that amiable female approached the termination of a prolonged dusting of the apartment—

"Sir," said Mrs. Bardell.

"Your little boy is a very long time gone."
"Why it's a good long way to the Borough, sir," remonstrated Mrs. Bardell.

"Ah," said Mr. Pickwick, "very true; so it is." Mr. Pickwick relapsed into silence, and Mrs. Bardell resumed her dusting.

"Mrs. Bardell," said Mr. Pickwick, at the expiration of a few minutes.

"Sir," said Mr. Bardell again.

"Do you think it a much greater expense to keep two people, than to keep one?"

"La, Mr. Pickwick" said Mrs. Bardell, colouring up to the very border of her cap, as she fancied she observed a species of matrimonial twinkling in the eyes of her lodger; "La, Mr. Pickwick, what a question?"

"Well, but do you?" inquired Mr. Pickwick.

"That depends—" said Mrs. Bardell, approaching the duster very near to Mr. Pickwick's elbow, which was planted on the table. "that depends a good deal upon the person, you know, Mr. Pickwick; and whether it's a saving and careful person, sir."

"That's very true," said Mr. Pickwick, "but the person I have in my eye (here he looked very hard at Mrs. Bardell) I think possesses these qualities; and has, moreover, a considerable knowledge of the world, and a great deal of sharpness, Mrs. Bardell; which may be of material use to me.

"La, Mr. Pickwick," said Mrs. Bardell; the crimson rising to her cap—border again.

-Charles Dickens

*(g) A princess dressed as a peasant girl comes to a village with a view to having an adventure. The villagers take her for a vagabond.

Princess. Will one of you have the goodness to harness a cart for me? I wish to return to the town.

[There is a chorus of laughter]
First man. Eh! no doubt! [He turns away and spits on the ground]

Princess. [Standing] Will you have the goodness to do it for me now? I must return at once to the town.

Second woman. [Sitting down on the lowest step and tying her shoe] She is cracked, no doubt, poor girl!

Princess. I have asked you twice. Did you hear me?

Second man. Aye! ask again and then move on. We can't have vagabonds here,

Princess. [Sitting down and laughing helplessly] Oh, Florimund! How he will laugh!

Third woman. [Very shrilled-voiced, calling out from the crowd] What is that! Is it my jug there on the step? How it up!

Princess. [Holding up the jug] 'Ts it yours? I took it from the cottage there on the right. [She points towards the cottage]

Third woman. She took it! She took it! She talks me so!
[She pushes past the other people on to the steps.] And my knife! And my cup! And plate! [Her voice gets shriller and shriller. The little child squares through the by standers and comes up to her]

Ch ld. Mother! She took the loaf or Sunday! She gave it to the ducks, but I wouldn't eat it!

Third woman. And my Sunday loaf! [She fling her hands up over her head.]

Second man. [Coming up the steps] Did'e do it? Did'e take the things?

Princess. [cowering back against the stem of the cross] Ye's, I took them.

Third woman. Oh, the brazen-faced hussy! My jug and my loaf! What will we have for Sunday?

Princess. I'm sorry. I did...
Third woman. Sorry...sorry...So will you be! And how do we know what else may not have gone?

First woman. That rose there! that will be from my garden!

Fourth woman. My flowers too! She's robbed more than th' gardens, we'll see!

Third woman. Search her! Search her!

[She seizes the Princess by the shoulders and pulls at the front of her dress. The Princess screams and pushes her off with her hands]. —K. C. Greene

(h) A conversation between the monitor and a schoolboy who is asking the former's permission for holding a feast.

Jeremy met him coming up from the Chapel. "I say, Malleson—"

"Yes?"

"We want to have a feast on Saturday night. Can we?"

"No, you can't."

"Oh, I say—"

"What were you saying?"

Jeremy patiently began again. "We want to have a feast on Saturday night. Can we?"

"Oh, a feast—" Malleson stopped, gazing dreamily across the fields. "What do you want a feast for?"

"My uncle sent me some money. We haven't have one for so long."

"Haven't you? Oh well, if you want to make pigs of yourselves."

That was enough. Saying, "Oh, thanks awfully," Jeremy ran off. —Hugh Walpole
SOME SPECIMEN DIALOGUES

1. A conversation between a teacher and a student who is very late in arriving at school.

Teacher. Why are you so late today, Amal.
Amal. Please excuse me, Sir. I was detained on the way.
Teacher. It’s strange! who detained you? And why were you detained?
Amal. I was detained by nobody, Sir. There was an accident on the way.
Teacher. What? An accident! tell me what took place.
Amal. While I was coming to school I saw a poor old man knocked down by a motor car.
Teacher. What did you do then?
Amal. I went to the man and found him unconscious. Just then a gentleman was passing alone in his car. I requested him to stop and take the man to the hospital. He was a very kind man and so he complied with my request. This is why I am detained, Sir.
Teacher. You have done a very fine deed, Amal. You have proved yourself a worthy student of this school. Now, come and take your seat.

2. conversation between two boys after the annual prize distribution ceremony of the school.

Bimal. Hallow, Prasanta. My congratulations to you! Show me what prize you have got.
Prasanta. Here are the prizes. They are mainly books. I like this book on adventure particularly.
Bimal. Oh, what nice books you have got! Most of them are lovely. But why have you been given so many books?
Prasanta. I got two prizes. One for standing first in the examination, and the other for regular attendance. Have you got any prize, Bimal?

Bimal. I am sorry, Prasanta, I have got a duck.

Prasanta. What? you haven’t got any prize! Only last year you were a good student and stood first among the boys of your school. And this year, you haven’t got any prize! What does this mean? I can’t believe.

Bimal. I don’t know how it happened. I was a good student at first and worked hard too. But after a time I grew inattentive and dull. I don’t know why—

Prasanta. It’s a mystery, no doubt. Of course, I have no right to advise you. But you should not lose heart. I speak this to you as I am a friend of yours. You should be up and doing.

Bimal. Yes, yes. I know that too well. Now let me go, I am in a hurry.

3. A conversation between a father and his son on early rising.

Father. I see you have just got up.

Amal. Yes, father. I went to bed late at night. Hence this’ delay. I think you have been up a long time, haven’t you?

Father. Since five o’clock.

Amal. What made you get up so early?

Father. Every day I rise very early in the morning. One feels so fresh if he leaves bed as soon as the sun is up. But why do you rise so late?

Amal. Last night I could not have a wink of sleep till one o’clock. I waked up to twelve o’clock and then went to bed.
Father. This is not good for health. You should neither work late at night nor do get up late in the morning.

Amal. How can I do that? The pressure of home task is so heavy that I have to work daily late at night.

Father. I knew a gentleman who used to leave bed at three o'clock.

Amal. At three o'clock! Why?

Father. He was a professor and had been carrying on researches. So he used to get up at three, and work all day long.

Amal. But if he got up at three, he must have gone to bed earlier.

Father. Yes, you are right. He used to go to bed at eight o'clock.

Amal. How strange! But how long did he work?

Father. He worked till eight o'clock. So, now you can easily see he got in five hours' good work daily before other people started.

Amal. This is, no doubt, a fine plan and I shall try to follow it.

4. A conversation between two gentlemen in a restaurant, one of whom has taken the other's umbrella by mistake.

First man. Excuse me, Sir. I think you have taken my umbrella.

Second man. Nothing of the sort, sir. It is my own umbrella.

First man. I beg your pardon, but I think it is mine. It has my initials, R S. on the handle.

Second man. Those are my initials, sir. My name is Ramani Sanyal.

First man. And mine is Ramen Sen.

Second man. I see, you have a ready invention, sir.
First man. I don't happen to have identity card with me.
Second man. No. I didn't expect you would have.
First man. Really, sir, what you say is most offensive.
The Restaurant boy. Excuse me, sir. There is another umbrella
on the floor here. Perhaps it belongs to the other
gentleman.
Second man. How extraordinary! It is exactly like mine
in every detail.
First man. Oh, I see.
The Restaurant boy. Then this must be yours, sir. That
one belongs to the other gentleman.
Second man. Quite extraordinary. Is it not? Do you go my
way, sir? I am catching a No. 3 bus.
First man. Thank you, sir, I shall go by a No. 2 bus.

(Adapted)

5. A conversation between a boy and a gentleman at a
railway station.
The boy. Excuse me, sir. Can you tell me when the next
train to Krishnagar leaves? I want to reach there
as quickly as I can.
The gentleman. Then you had better take the Banpur
Passenger as far as Ranaghat and change there.
The boy. Thank you, sir. What time does the train leave?
The gentleman. At 9 A.M. And it reaches Ranaghat at
10-30.
The boy. What shall I do after getting down at Ranaghat?
The gentleman. The Bongaon Local leaves for Krishnagar
at about 11 A.M. You are to catch that train and
it will take you to Krishnagar in an hour or so,
The boy. Doesn't any through train run from here?
The gentleman. Yes. The Lalgolaghat Passenger goes straight
to Krishnagar. But it leaves at 2 P.M. and so it will
take a long time to get to Krishnagar.
The boy. Thank you, sir. Good morning.
The gentleman. Good morning.

6. A conversation between two boys on city life versus country life

Arun. Hallo, Anadi! I haven’t seen you for ages. Where have you been so long?

Anadi. Do you not know that I have left Calcutta and helping father in his business in our native village?

Arun. So you are in the village, I see! But is not the life dull there?

Anadi. It seemed to me very dull at first. But now I am used to it.

Arun. You look very healthy. How have you acquired such a nice health?

Anadi. This is one of the manifold blessings of the village. The pure air, fresh vegetables, pure milk all these have helped me to acquire such a nice health.

Arun. You may look fine, but I think there is nothing to amuse you in the village. Has it sports, cinemas, fine roads, cultured society?

Anadi. No, the village has none of these attractions. But a village has its own charm. If you once be in a village all things that attracts you in the city cease to be attractions. We are very happy with our plain and simple life there.

Arun. It's astonishing! What is life without pleasure? Apart from the pleasures does your village supply you with the barest necessities of life? Have you got a good doctor or a hospital there?

Anadi. You are wholly mistaken, my friend. I have already said our life is very simple. And so you can easily understand our wants are also very few. It's true that there is no hospital or doctor.
village, but we have no disease and so we want neither a doctor nor a hospital. Now, you can understand my point very clearly.

Arun. Oh, Anadi, enough of this now. We leave it at that. Let us agree to differ. But I should like to stay at your village for a few days.

Anadi. You are always welcome. Moreover, my father will be pleased to meet you.

Arun. Thank you very much.

7. A conversation between two friends planning a holiday trip.

Nirmal. Where are you going, Arun?
Arun. Going to market, my friend,
Nirmal. Where have you been so long, and why do you look so pale?
Arun. I was busy preparing myself for the examination. So I had been penned up at home for a long time. Now the examination is over and I have been able to come out.

Nirmal. How have you done in the examination?
Arun. On the whole, not bad.
Nirmal. How do you like to spend the holidays?
Arun. I have not yet made a definite plan.
Nirmal. Some of my friends and I are going on a cycle tour to Diamond Harbour. You may join us if you like.
Arun. When are you starting?
Nirmal. We intend to start day after tomorrow.
Arun. Good for you! I am very glad. But I am to seek my father’s permission at first.

Nirmal. Then do it today. Diamond Harbour is a nice place. It is full of beautiful sights. And the scenery...
Arun. I do envy you. I have never been to such a nice place, although there are so many around Calcutta. Well, I will ask for my father's permission, and shall be only much too glad if I have the chance of enjoying such a trip.

8. A conversation between two boys on the habit of neatness.

Charles. It seems to me, John, that you think yourself rather smart this morning. How your shoes shine! I hope you are not getting so proud that you will not speak to a fellow like one.

John. Why, what do you mean, Charles? Don't you think I can have any shoes brushed without being proud?

Charles. Oh, yes, I hope you can, but what is the use of being so very nice. I should think you had never seen any dirt. For my part, I don't care if my shoes have mud on them. I am not afraid of dirt, I can tell you.

John. Nor am I afraid of it; but I think it is our duty to keep ourselves neat and tidy. Would you like to see all the scholars come to school with muddy shoes, so that the floor should always be covered with dirt and dust? Our teacher likes to have the school-room neat and clean; and I think he is right, and I for one will do my part to please them.

Charles. I, too, am willing to please my teacher; but what is the use of being so very particular, I'd like to know.

John. I think it is a good thing to be neat and clean. My mother says I can save her much work by being careful about my shoes and clothes; and if I can, I am sure I ought. Now tell one, Charles, do you
not like to see boys neat? There's Tom careless, always covered with mud; and his face is never clean, not his hair brushed. Would you like to sit beside him all day?

Charles. Why, no, I can't say that I should, when it comes to that. I think, after all, that you are right, John, and I will try to be more careful myself, though I fear I shall never be so neat as you are.

John. Oh, yes, you will, Charles. Once form the habit of neatness, and it will be much easier than to be covered with mud. (Adapted)

9. A conversation between a mother and her daughter, the former remonstrating with the father for being untidy.

Mother. When will you learn, my child, to be tidy?

Arati. O Mother! You are at me again. I am afraid, I can never please you.

Mother. How can you, child, when you won't take the trouble to be neat and clean? Just have a look at yourself in the mirror. Don't you see that you haven't even wiped the soap off your face?

Arati. O dear! I really had no idea till this moment that I had any soap on my face.

Mother. And look at your hair; it makes you look so wild. Haven't I told you over so often, to come to me, so that I could comb and plait your hair myself?

Arati. I didn't wish to trouble you, Mother. I thought I would do up my hair by myself.

Mother. And aren't you ashamed of wearing that dirty sari? You should have sent it to the wash long ago.

Arati. I was in a hurry to go to school, Mother. I thought I would change it tomorrow.
Mother. Never put off till tomorrow what you can do today. And what will your classmates say when they see your sandals so dusty?

Arati. Mother! Mother! I shall never be caught untidy again, I promise you.  

(Adapted)

10. A conversation between a teacher and a student on the rights and duties of a citizen.

The student. Has a citizen anything to do with politics?

The teacher. Yes, every citizen should take part in politics.

The student. How can he do that?

The teacher. He has a vote. He can take part in politics by using his vote for those who have the interest of the country at heart.

The student. Now I understand it clearly.

The teacher. As a member of society a citizen has also some duties towards his fellow-men.

The student. Please explain me, Sir, what are these duties.

The teacher. Every citizen should try his best to improve himself and the society he lives in. Moreover, he should also develop a good character and that is necessary for the sake of his society as well as the country he lives in. Always bear in mind, it is only honest and brave men that can make a nation great and strong.

The student. As citizens of the country what are our duties to the state?

The teacher. At the outset every citizen must be patriotic. He should love his country, his people and their way of life. He should be willing to defend his country against the enemies who will try to conquer it and destroy it. These are, in short, our duties towards our fellowmen and our country.
11. A conversation between a mother and his daughter on careers for girls.

_Uma_. I don't think that a woman's only place is the home.
_Mother_. What do you mean, Uma? Do you think you will have a better home if your mother goes out to an office every day?

_Uma_. No, that's not what I meant.
_Mother_. Well, what do you mean then?
_Uma_. Let me explain my point. There are more women than men, so they can't all marry and have homes. And women don't all want to live at home until they do get married.

_Mother_. I can't understand what are you driving at.
_Uma_. Plainly speaking, women want to feel they are as good as men are. If they always have to stay at home and do the household work, they will find their lives dull and dreary.

_Mother_. Yes, now I can understand you. A woman wants to feel independent. Don't you think she is already, Uma? A woman can do almost everything a man does, and earn her living just like a man.

_Uma_. Then why do people keep on saying that woman's place is the home?

_Mother_. I think it's not correct. Now, tell me what do you like to be.

_Uma_. I would rather be a school teacher if I can't be a professor.

_Mother_. Why would you not like to be a doctor or some hing like that, Uma?

_Uma_. I don't know. It must be very difficult.
_Mother_. Nothing would seem too difficult when you are
older. And nothing really is if you make up your mind to do it.

_Uma._ Yes, I know, let me think over it.

12. A conversation between two friends planning what they would do after the examination.

_Sunil._ What do you intend to do, now when the examination is over?

_Arun._ I have not yet planned what I shall do. How do you intend passing the holidays?

_Sunil._ I have made up my mind to go to our native village and spend some time there. My uncle and aunt are there and they will be too glad to have me in their midst.

_Arun._ Where does your native village stand?

_Sunil._ It's in the district of Nurshidabad. The village stands on the Bhagirathi and is about a hundred miles away from Calcutta.

_Arun._ How does your village look?

_Sunil._ Oh, simply charming. It's a nice little village. To the south of it flows the Bhagirathi and there are green fields and well-laid out orchards on all sides.

_Arun._ Oh, how happy I would have been if I could go with you!

_Sunil._ It will surely be a nice thing if you accompany me.

_Arun._ But that is not to be. You know an uncle of mine lives in Delhi. He is coming down to Calcutta and will pass a week here. So it will not be possible for me to go with you, however much I may wish to do so.

13. A conversation between the members of a family about a proposed trip.

_George._ (as Mr. Brown returns from the office) Hello, Dad, you're looking very cheerful.
Mr. Brown. Am I? Well, I suppose I have caused to be: I've got that big order from the French government that I was telling you about.

Jack. Will you have to go over to France?

Mr. Brown. Yes. And what I was going to propose was that we should all go over for a week at Whitsan.

Mrs. Brown. I think that's a splendid idea.

Mary. Shall we fly?

Mrs. Brown. Oh, I hope not. I'd rather go by train and enjoy the scenery.

Mr. Brown. We can't afford flying, anyway.

Mary. When shall we start packing?

Mr. Brown. Ask your mother about that. But we don't want any heavy baggage. One suit-case each, please. (Adapted)

14. A conversation between the members of the same family on crossing the English Channel.

Mr. Brown. Well, here we are on board. "Fair sets the wind for France, as we our sails advance." That's right, isn't it, Mary? Let's take these chairs over there by the rail. It's always pleasanter outside than in 'a stuffy cabin.

Mrs. Brown (uneasily). Isn't it rather windy?

Mr. Brown. Wrap this rug round you.

Mr. Brown. I'm not cold. I was thinking of the weather.

Rose. What a lot of white birds!

Mary. Sea-gulls. Aren't they tame!

George. Were off now. Look, we're beginning to move.

Mr. Brown. When! that was a pretty big wave, wasn't it? We are well outside the break water now. There's quite a wind, isn't there?
Jack. The land's fading from view now. We shall soon be able to see France.

Mrs Brown. I'm sure. I hope so.

Mr. Brown. Mary, if you begin to feel sea-sick, promise to go inside and take Rose with you.

Mary. Yes, Dad, but I'm really all right, thank you.

Mr. Brown. I'm not. Come on, George. How this ship rolls! If ever I get safe on land...... What folly it was to give up the Channel Tunnel Scheme! We're coming back by air if I know anything. (Adapted)

15. A conversation between a Headmaster and a boy seeking admission in his school.

Prasanta. May I come in, Sir?

Headmaster. Yes, my boy.

Prasanta. Good morning, Sir.

Headmaster. Good morning, my boy. Your business, please.

Prasanta. I want to be admitted to your school, Sir.

Headmaster. What class do you intend to join?

Prasanta. Class X, Sir.

Headmaster. Where have you been reading so long?

Prasanta. I was a student of Hare School, Sir.

Headmaster. Why have you left the school?

Prasanta. My father is a public servant. He has been recently transferred here. That's why I seek admission in your school.

Headmaster. You shall have to produce the transfer certificate and the progress report then. Have you brought them with you?

Prasanta. Yes, Sir. They're with me.

Headmaster. Let me see your progress report. [He takes the progress report from the boy and reads it.] The progress report shows that you are a good student. So you needn't be anxious about your admission.
Prasanta. Thank you, Sir, for the kindness you show me.

Headmaster. Get a form from the office, fill it up, and see me tomorrow as soon as the school opens.

Prasanta. How much shall I have to pay, Sir, for the admission?

Headmaster. I know nothing about it. Go and see the clerk and he will tell you everything.

Prasanta. Thank you, Sir.

Headmaster. Now go and see the clerk.

Prasanta. Goodbye, Sir.

Headmaster. Good-bye, my boy.

16. A conversation between the members of a family, who are packing for the holiday.

Mrs Brown. Well, after breakfast we must start packing. I know what clothes you need, but you must tell me what else you want. What about you, George?

George. I'd better take my books. I shall be reading a lot of the time, for my examination in October.

Mrs Brown. Books are very heavy, but we can take another box if necessary.

Jack. Can we take the radio?

Mr Brown. No, we can't. We are going for a quiet holiday.

Mary. I would like some books, too, but not school-books.

Mrs Brown. Well, we'll see.

Mr Brown. Don't forget the umbrellas and raincoats.

Mrs Brown. We can carry those with us. I want to know what we have to pack.

[After breakfast they all begin packings.]

Mrs Brown. You'll be travelling in what you've got on. So we've only got to think about what you need there.
Now they finish packing and Jack goes out to call a taxi, and the taxi comes in no time. They all get in and the taxi starts."

Mr Brown. Is there anything else anyone has forgotten?

Mrs Brown. No, nothing, I'm sure. You've got the tickets, haven't you?

Mr Brown. Yes, I bought them two days ago.

Mrs Brown. Where are they?

Mr Brown. In my pocket, of course. Here they are. Wait a minute! Where......? I'm sure I put them in this pocket. Oh, dear! They must be in the coat I was wearing then. And now it is packed up in my suitcase. We shall have to undo it at the station.

Mrs Brown. I hope you've got the keys (Adapted)

17. A conversation between a group of boys, going out for fishing.

Sunil. We must not take Kamal with us.

Kamal. Why? Can't I come too?

Nirmal. You'd frighten all the fish away.

Sudhir. Don't be afraid, Kamal. It's simply a joke. We must take you with us.

Sunil. We should take some rice with us. And if we can catch any fish we can make a fire and cook them.

Kamal. What shall we do if we don't catch any?

Sudhir. It's wise to take some sweets and fruits with us.

[ The party starts and comes to a pool of water. They carry all necessary things with them. ]

Sunil. This is better than fishing in the river from a boat. Now Nirmal, take your hook and just sit still and wait for the fish to bite. We shall walk up the forest and keep seeing the beauties of nature.

Nirmal. Will you leave me all alone here? Let Arun be with me.
[Suddenly Nirmal feels something at the end of the line and he lifts the rod quickly.]

Kamal. It must be a big fish.

[ Nirmal pulls up an old shoe and all the boys burst into a peal of laughter ]

Sunil. Morning shows the day.

Nirimal. Abandon your plan and let us have the things that we have brought with us and go back home.

18. A conversation between a group of boys on a picnic.

Amal. What are we going to do now?

Bimal. Let us go fishing in the river.

Anil. What do you want to do, Subodh?

Subodh. Let us go for a picnic.

Arun. Look at those black clouds.

Subodh. Never mind we can take shelter somewhere should it rain.

[The boys go for a picnic in a forest. Each of them carry a basket.]

Anil. Did you forget anything this time, Amal?

Amal. No, nothing. Let me see—bread, butter, cups, tea, cake, sugar—where’s the milk?

Bimal. No, it isn’t it. Sudhir was carrying it. Open his basket.

Sudhir. Here it is.

Anil. Now let us prepare tea.

Amal. It’s a nice proposal. After tea we shall begin cooking.

Anil. Who will cook?

Amal. Cooking will be done by Bimal. And we all will play at cards.

Sudhir. That’s a nice proposal.
19. A conversation between two girls discussing what they would like to do after passing the examination.

Rekha. My heartiest congratulations to you, Uma. How glad am I to learn that you have passed the Higher Secondary Examination, and that with credit.

Uma. And what about you? Let me congratulate you on your brilliant success.

Rekha. Tell me what you want to do now.

Uma. The result has come out only recently. I haven't yet decided what to do. What's your plan?

Rekha. I, too, have not hit upon anything definitely. I may join a college if my father permits me.

Uma. So, you have decided nothing as yet. But what good will you derive if you go to a college?

Rekha. What do you suggest then?

Uma. It's better to do something which is practical. Why should you not go to a medical college and be a doctor?

Rekha. I'm not such a meritorious girl as you are. So it will be a bit difficult for me to secure a seat in any medical college.

Uma. Then you take up the course of nursing.

Rekha. Do you mean that college education is useless?

Uma. Exactly so. Nobody gains anything now-a-days by undergoing college education. Moreover, the people of our country pass their days miserably. They die without any medical aid, so to say. I think a doctor or a nurse can do much to relieve the sufferings of the poor.

Rekha. Now I understand your point. I shall think over your proposal seriously.

Uma. That's nice. Let us now hurry home. It's getting dark.
20. A conversation between a teacher and his pupil on the choice of a profession.

Teacher. Now tell me, Arun, what would you like to be after passing the Higher Secondary Examination.

Arun. I haven’t decided anything up till now. I may join a college if my father permits me.

Teacher. You should give serious thought over the matter. The choice of a suitable profession is the only way by which a young man can shine in after life. What benefit will you derive if you take up the course of general education? What a boy can do if he passes the B. A. Examination?

Arun. What’s your suggestion, Sir?

Teacher. I suggest you to do something practical.

Arun. What’s your definite proposal, Sir?

Teacher. I like you should be either an engineer or a doctor.

Arun. Then you say a degree will be of no use.

Teacher. You are quite right. This is exactly what I mean. Our country has recently achieved her independence. Now we should put all our energy to build her up. And an engineer or a doctor can help much in this direction. Our countrymen die of hunger. So extensive system of irrigation is an urgent necessity. To solve the unemployment problem we need more and more industries. And you know an engineer can help much to fulfill these objects. Besides these, our countrymen die for want of proper medical aid. If you be a doctor you may help them much.

Arun. Now I understand your point quite clearly, Sir. I shall do as you suggest.
Teacher. Of course, these are only suggestions. It's for you and your father to decide what will be really good for you.

21. A conversation between two boys on the rules of the road.

Lalit. In the olden days there was no trouble on the roads. If people wanted to cross them they could do so without the help of a policeman.

Krishna. That's all very well. But, now-a-days, we must learn to obey the rules of the road.

Lalit. Rules of the road, indeed! I get tired of hearing about them.

Krishna. You are getting angry about nothing.

Lalit. Yes, I'm angry. Perhaps you would have been, too, if you had been with me yesterday.

Krishna. Why, what happened yesterday?

Lalit. Oh, I was on my cycle and was going round the corner of Asoka Lane when someone shouted at me. He also blew a motor horn loud enough to make me deaf for the rest of my life.

Krishna. Why did he do that?

Lalit. Oh, he said that before going round the corner I should have held my arm out to show him where I was going.

Krishna. Why, yes, of course. Didn't you?

Lalit. No, I did not. Why should I?

Krishna. Well, all I can say is, you ought not to be allowed to ride a cycle.

Lalit. Why not indeed?

Krishna. Well, because you are a danger to yourself and to other people. We must obey all the rules of the road. If you know the rules and keep them, then you will be quite safe, and other will be safe.
Lalit. Thank you very much, Krishna, for telling me all about it.

22. A conversation between two boys on health.

Amal. Where have you been so long, my friend?

Anil. I was not here, I have been away.

Amal. Where did you go?

Anil. I went to Darjeeling for a change.

Amal. Why did you go to Darjeeling? Were you indisposed?

Anil. Not seriously. But I often suffer from chronic fever attended with cold. So the doctor advised me for a change.

Amal. The climate is quite bracing now. It's surprising why one catches cold during this time of the year.

Anil. It's true that summer is near at hand. But I am always afraid of catching cold. So I sleep with the windows shut.

Amal. Why? You sleep with the windows shut! But I always sleep in the open during summer. In spite of that I don't catch cold.

Anil. You have a sound health, so you can do whatever you like. But I am too weak to stand cold.

Amal. But you should always remember, my friend, that fresh air is the only necessary thing for one's health. You sleep with the windows shut and that's why you always catch cold and suffer from fever. No one can be healthy and strong without fresh air.

Anil. What you say is quite reasonable. From now on I shall try to do as you say. The air is very cool. Now let us walk home.

23. A conversation between doctor and a patient.

Doctor. Good morning, Sir.

Patient. Good morning, doctor.
Doctor. I found you quite well yesterday. What's the trouble with you now?

Patient. My bowels do not move, and so I have no appetite. Moreover, I feel pain somewhere in the stomach.

Doctor. Then show me your tongue. It's quite alright. The pulse, too, is regular. And that pain in the stomach, I think, is due to constipation.

Patient. The condition of my health is now, on the whole good. I feel no appetite at all. And why is it?

Doctor. Is that the only trouble?

Patient. Not only, but the major trouble.

Doctor. Then no medicine will do you any good.

Patient. What shall I do then, doctor?

Doctor. I think you do not take any physical exercise. All day long you sit idle and do not go out of doors. You must at least walk one mile a day.

Patient. One mile a day! It's quite impossible.

Doctor. If you don't walk, you will never feel at ease and have any appetite. Without some sort of exercise no one can feel well.

Patient. Thank you, doctor, for your kind advice. I shall try to follow as you advise. Now goodbye, doctor.

Doctor. Goodbye, Sir.

24. A conversation between two boys one of whom wants to be an engineer and the other, a doctor.

Prasanta. Well Arun, what do you like to do? As for me I wish to be an engineer. You know engineers can do a lot for a backward country like ours.

Arun. I have not yet decided what I would be. But I don't like to be an engineer. If I can I shall try to be a doctor.
Prasanta. Why are you in favour of this particular profession?
Arun. I want to serve my countrymen. Most of our people are poor and they die like cats and dogs without any medical aid. I want to save them. I want to relieve them of their suffering.

Prasanta. Your idea is, no doubt, great. But it is engineers that can build up a country on a sound footing. Engineers can do a lot to better the condition of the people. Without removing the poverty you cannot do anything tangible to some people from their diseases and sufferings.

Arun. I understand your point quite all right. From what you say I deduce that both engineers and doctors are necessary for our country. Engineers will help the people to fight against poverty, and the doctors against diseases. It is by the continued and united efforts of the doctors and the engineers we can help our countrymen.

25. A conversation between two friends on a street accident.

Arun. What a horrible sight! Perhaps the woman is dead. Bimal, you go and contact with the Ambulance.

Bimal. I have already done that. But I don't know when they will come.

Arun. Look, they are coming.

Bimal. They have come quite early.

Arun. But how was the woman run over by the car?

Bimal. To my mind she is responsible for the accident and not the driver of the car.

Arun. Why do you say so?

Bimal. Why did she try to cross the road in the midway? One should always follow the rules of the traffic.
Arun. And she has paid dearly for her foolishness. But the driver should have blown his horn. How could one know that a car was coming?

Bimal. No doubt, the driver did not blow the horn and high speed of his car did much to cause the accident. But should that woman follow the traffic rules, she would not have died in such a way.

Arun. But had the speed of the car been less, the woman would have been spared. So, to my mind, both of them are responsible for this accident. And the police should find out the driver and punish him properly.

Bimal. No more discussion now. We are already late. Let's now hurry to school.

Exercise:

1. Write a conversation between two boys on a street accident which one of them saw occurring.

2. Write a conversation between two young girls, on a school play in which one played the part of a queen and the other of a fairy.

3. Write a conversation between two young boys, on a big football match, which took place on the previous day and for which they could not get tickets.

4. Write a conversation between the headmaster of a school and the guardian of a pupil seeking admission to the Science Course, though the boy has no taste for mathematics.

5. Write a conversation between two friends regarding their choice of profession.

6. Write a conversation between two friends concerning their future.

7. Write a conversation between a shopkeeper and a customer on the purchase of some articles.
8. Write a conversation between two boys about their favourite authors.

9. Write a conversation between a bookworm and a sportsman.

10. Write a conversation between a father and his son who wishes to be allowed to go in tour with his friends.

11. Write a conversation between two friends whether science is a blessing or a curse.

12. Write a conversation between two boys about their respective hobbies.

13. Write a conversation between two friends on the plight of the common people on account of the soaring prices of essential commodities.

14. Write a conversation between two school boys on their difficulties in learning English.

15. Write a conversation between a patient and a visitor about the unsatisfactory state of Hospital management in West Bengal.

16. Write a conversation between two girls on the advantages and disadvantages of examinations.

17. Write a conversation between a boy and his sister about the choice of courses of study.

18. Write a conversation between a father and his son who wishes to join the army.

19. Write a conversation between two class-mates planning a holiday excursion.

20. Write a conversation between a father and a son on the value of time.

21. Write a conversation between two friends on their way to the market talking about the high prices of necessary articles of daily life.

22. Write a conversation between a villager and a towns-
man on the respective advantages of living in a city and living in the countryside.

23. Write a conversation between a shopkeeper and a buyer about the food-adulteration.

24. Write a conversation between two friends regarding who is more useful to the country—a teacher or a soldier.

25. Write a conversation between two boys about a circus show.

26. Write a conversation between a father and his son about the educational tour on which the boy proposes to go with a party from the school.

27. Write a conversation between a mother and her son about the latter’s birthday

28. Write a conversation between two students as to how they propose to serve their brother country in their respective ways.

29. Write a conversation between two friends discussing whether students should take part in politics.

30. Write a conversation between two Higher Secondary School boys on the lengthy course of their studies.

31. Write a conversation between two friends discussing how best they can use their leisure.

32. Write a conversation between a father and a son who wants to join a college against the wishes of the father.

33. Write a conversation between two students on the future of English in India.

34. Write a conversation between two friends about the last prize-giving of their school.

35. Write a conversation between two friends discussing their aims in life.

36. Write a conversation between two friends on the usefulness of School Debating Society.
37. Write a conversation between two young men on the giving of alms to beggars.

38. Write a conversation between two boys planning to enjoy the holidays after examination.

39. Write a conversation between two friends watching an exciting cricket match.

40. Write a conversation between two men on the hardships of their daily life in Calcutta.

41. Write a conversation between two friends on how they spent the last Puza Vacation.

42. Write a conversation between a father and his son on the value of physical exercise.

43. Write a conversation between two students discussing what they would do after their Test Examination is over.

44. Write a conversation between two classmates why they should join the School N. C. C. Training.

45. Write a conversation between two students discussing the importance of discipline in life.

46. Write a conversation between two students about how they spent the last long vacation.

47. Write a conversation between two friends on the best form of recreation.

48. Write a conversation between two students on starting a poor fund in their school.

49. Write a conversation between a brother and a sister about female education.

50. Write a conversation between two friends about the merits and drawbacks of cinema shows.

51. Write a conversation between two boys or girls on their programme of an outing.
Exercises from H. S. Papers

1960

1. Write a conversation between two friends meeting at a railway station, one of whom has come to receive his father.

2. Write a conversation between two girls planning a picnic.

1961

3. Write a conversation between a Headmaster and a boy seeking admission in his school.

4. Write a conversation between a mother and her son who is going to England for higher studies.

5. Write a conversation between two friends planning a holiday trip.

1961 (Comp.)

6. Write a conversation between two friends about a book they have recently read.

7. Write a conversation between a mother and her daughter who wishes to join a college against the wishes of her parents.

8. Write a conversation between a father and his son who wishes to buy a bycycle.

1962

9. Write a conversation between two friends concerning their future.

10. Write a discussion in the form of conversation between two friends about the usefulness of military training for grown up students.

11. Write a conversation between a nurse and a patient in a hospital.
1962 (Comp.)

12. Write a conversation between two friends on the usefulness of newspapers.

13. Write a conversation between two friends on the spending of a vacation in a really useful way.

1963

14. Write a conversation between two boys returning home after an exciting football match.

15. Write a conversation between two passengers who happened to be seated next to each other in a railway compartment about rising prices.

1963 (Comp.)

16. Write a conversation between two students who are going to appear at the Higher Secondary Examination a week later.

17. Write a conversation between a villager and a townsman on the respective advantages of living in a city and leaving in the country side.

1964

18. Write a conversation between two friends who discuss memorable incidents of their childhood.

19. Write a conversation between a father and his son regarding the future career of the son.

20. Write a conversation between two school boys describing their experiences as N. C. C. cadets.

1964 (Comp.)

21. Write a conversation between two young men who discuss the advisability of joining the profession of a doctor.
22. Write a conversation between two boys who discuss plans about a holiday excursion.

1965

23. Write a conversation between two young men who discuss whether military training should be made compulsory in schools and colleges.

24. Write a conversation between two villagers who discuss the problems of rural life in West Bengal today.