

Unit One

At School

Language Focus

Language Functions

Expressing Appreciation

- eg. - Well done
- Congratulations

Expressing feeling

- eg. - You gave us a nice speech.

Agreeing

- eg. - Yes of course.

Attention markers

- eg. - By the way,
- Well,

Making Suggestions

- eg. - Let's go to the class.

Grammar

Complex sentences

- sentences with conjunctions of reason and result (because/ as)

- eg. - We couldn't hear you much **because** we were at the back

- eg. - The teacher was happy **as** we won the competition.

The School Assembly

Sankalpa is a student of Pragnasara Maha Vidyalaya. Every Monday all the students attend the morning assembly. Here is a speech made by Sankalpa at an assembly.



‘I am here today to speak a few words about what I have learnt from my school.

I am proud to be a student of Pragnasara Maha Vidyalaya. In my school there are Sinhala, Tamil and Muslim students. So we get a good opportunity to learn to live together. Our school gives us a good education and provides us with a lot of activities.

There are boys and girls in our school. In the playground, we enjoy playing cricket, netball and volleyball together. When playing games we also develop leadership qualities, unity and companionship.

I study a number of subjects in the class. I share the things I know with my friends. I help some of my friends in Mathematics. During the Christmas season I make greeting cards for my Christian friends and send them through our school postal service. At Vesak, I get cards with nice pictures drawn by my Hindu, Muslim and Christian friends. All of us enjoy making Vesak lanterns and Christmas decorations. Together we participate in singing ‘*Vesak Bhakthi Gee*’ and Christmas Carols. During Thai Pongal, Ramazan and New Year we share sweetmeats. At the end of the year, we have lots of fun singing songs and taking part in dramas at the school concert.

I am sure that if we attend school daily, do our studies well and perform our duties and fulfil responsibilities we will be blessed and rewarded.’

Thank you.



Activity 1.1 Comprehension

Reading / Writing

Select the correct answer according to the reading passage.
Copy the correct answer into your writing book.

1) Pragnasara Maha Vidyalaya has a morning assembly

- (a) every day.
- (b) every Monday.
- (c) every other day.

2) The speech was made by

- (a) a teacher.
- (b) the principal.
- (c) a student.

3) Sankalpa's school is a

- (a) mixed school.
- (b) boys' school.
- (c) private school.

4) Playing games develops

- (a) sports.
- (b) friends.
- (c) leadership qualities.

5) Sankalpa helps his friends in

- (a) Science.
- (b) Mathematics.
- (c) English.

6) The school encourages the students to

- (a) buy cards.
- (b) exchange cards.
- (c) make their own cards.



Activity 1.2 Pair work

Reading / Writing

Copy this onto your writing book and match the words in box A with the meanings given in box B.

A

assembly
opportunity
companionship
concert
daily

B

friendship
gathering
everyday
chance
musical entertainment



Activity 1.3

Writing

(I) The apostrophe(‘) is used:

- To show missing letters in shortened forms/contractions
*eg. He **doesn't** like eating sweets.*
- To show ownership or possession
*eg. It was a **boys'** school.*

(II) Inverted comma (“.....”/ ‘.....’) Single or double commas inverted are used to show quotations

eg. “I am here to speak a few words.”

- (a) * Put the apostrophes and inverted commas where necessary and rewrite the following conversation in your writing book.
* Then practise the conversation in groups of five. Add your own comments to suit the situation.

Well done you gave us a nice speech said Imran.

Thank you Imran. By the way did you hear me? asked Sankalpa.

Yes of course said Vijaya.

But we couldnt hear you much because we were at the back said Thamara.

Oh! I m sorry said Sankalpa Next time I'll speak a little louder.

Theres our teacher. Lets go to the class.

Good morning children said the teacher

Well, congratulations Sankalpa. Everybody appreciated the way you gave the speech. But mind how you pronounce words like qualities and opportunity.

Thank you teacher said Sankalpa

(b) Find out the speakers of the conversation given above. Write their names one under the other with space for their words in your writing book.

eg. *Imran* :-



Activity 1.4

Grammar

Look at the sentences given below.

1. We couldn't hear you much **because** *we were at the back*.
2. The teacher was happy **as** *we won the competition*.
3. My friend was disappointed **since** *she couldn't get good results*.

There are two ideas in each of these sentences and they are joined by 'because, as and since.' These words are called conjunctions and they join two ideas together.

Complete the following sentences in your writing book.

1. I went to bed very early since(sleepy)
2. He opened the window because(warm)
3. She often goes to the library as(to read)
4. We stayed at home because(holiday)
5. My friend likes watching television as(cartoon)



Activity 1.5 **Pair work**

Speaking / Reading

Read these sentences correctly. Be mindful of your pronunciation. Check whether your partner can pronounce these tongue twisters correctly.



Write five sentences as given in the above activity in your writing book

Check whether your partner can pronounce them correctly.

Schools in England



In England children do not go to school until they are five years old. There are play schools for those under five. At play school they learn to draw, paint and play interesting games.

All children have to go to a junior school at the age of five. At junior school they learn to read and write and start learning Mathematics.

Most children study at the junior school until they are eleven or twelve. Then they go to a secondary school. In some parts of England, children go to a middle school at eight and move to a secondary school at twelve. So in some places a middle school can come between junior and secondary schools. The children study in the secondary school until they are at least sixteen years old.

Most schools start at 9.00 in the morning. They have lessons until a twenty minute break at 11.00. They usually get the lunch break at about 12.30. Most children have their lunch at school. The meals are cooked in the school kitchen. Those who live near the school go home for lunch. After lunch, lessons begin at 2.00 p.m and finish at 3.15 p.m or 3.30 p.m. Then most students go home. Some stay back for an extra hour to play games or to go to one of the school clubs, like the 'Computer Club' or the 'Swimming Club'. In most parts of England there are three terms and three holidays, in December-Winter, in April-Easter and in August-Summer. The longest holiday is in Summer from the end of July to early September. It is usually about six weeks. In some schools they have four terms and four short holidays every year. However, the number of days the students have to study every year is the same in all the schools in England.



Activity 1.6

Reading / Writing

Read the following sentences and copy the correct ones onto your writing book.

1. Some children go to play school before they go to junior school.
2. Some children go to middle school after they are eleven or twelve years old.
3. Children have lessons for two hours before the break at 11.00.
4. They can't stay at school until they are sixteen years old.
5. In most English schools there are no lessons in the afternoons.
6. Summer holidays are usually from July to September.
7. Most schools have three terms in England.



Activity 1.7 Group work

Speaking / Writing

- * Discuss the similarities and differences between the schools in Sri Lanka and the schools in England.
- * List the similarities and differences in a grid in your writing book. Then write a short description about your school.

Similarities	Differences



Activity 1.8

Reading

Ann-9 years



John-7 years



Rose-13 years



Jane-17 years



Robert-4 years



Copy the sentences and match the name of the student with the school.

- 1) _____ is at junior school.
- 2) _____ is at university.
- 3) _____ is at middle school.
- 4) _____ is at play school.
- 5) _____ is at secondary school.



Activity 1.9 Pair work

Reading / Writing

Read the story and suggest a suitable title

Long long ago, when Brahmadata was the king of Benares, there lived a famous teacher. His name was Disapamok. He lived in Thaksila. He had about five hundred young men at a time as students. One day the teacher



said to his pupils, “I want my daughter to marry one of you. She needs some silk clothes and gold jewellery. As I have no money, you will have to steal these things without being caught. The one who steals the best things will marry her.” The teacher’s daughter was a beautiful girl. All the young pupils wanted to marry her. So they went off into the town and stole whatever they could get. They went back to the teacher and gave him all they had stolen.

Bodhisatta was one among the five hundred pupils. He alone went to the teacher empty handed.

“Every one of my pupils has brought something for my daughter,” the teacher said “Only you have come with nothing. Why is that?”

“Sir, I don’t want to marry your daughter by doing something wrong. Therefore I came with empty hands.”

The teacher was very happy. “Well done,” said the teacher. “You are the only one who has passed my test. My daughter doesn’t need these clothes and jewellery. I wanted to see which of my pupils would refuse to do my bidding when I told them to do something wrong. Only such a person is good enough for her.”

The teacher’s daughter was given in marriage to the Bodhisatta.

(adapted from The Jataka Tales)