



Language Focus

Language Functions

Grammar

(01) Defining

The food they eat, the clothes they wear, their very ideas are also a part of their culture.

(02) Introducing

This is a presentation made by a student on the importance of the betel leaf.

(03) Expressing opinion

The comb of bananas too is culturally important like the sheaf of betel.

(04) Presenting Facts

Alexandra Victoria was born on May 24th 1819.

(01) Finding the Main clause and Subordinate clause in a sentence

eg: She came to the throne in 1837, (Main clause) after the death of her uncle.

(Subordinate clause)

(02) Complex sentences, using relative pronouns

eg: In 1840, she married her distant cousin Albert who was a German prince.



■ Reading

The students and teachers of Aranayake Central College are planning to have a cultural show in the school hall. They wish to promote harmony and understanding among the people. Here they are busy discussing their plans.

- Kamal** :- We're going to be busy the next couple of days.
- Nizar** :- Of course, with the cultural show coming up, the work involved is going to be hectic.
- Geetha** :- I'm sure it's going to be exciting and interesting.
- Nizar** :- The events of the show will have to highlight the beliefs of communities and countries. As we all know, customs, traditions, rituals and celebrations vary according to communities and cultures.
- Stephanie** :- Isn't that what culture is all about?
- Geetha** :- Don't you think language is also important. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the ideas too are a part of the culture.
- Nizar** :- I think, Kamal will be able to clear our doubts in this field as he helped his sister with her project on cultural studies.
- Kamal** :- Yes, Thanks to my sister's project, I now have a broad idea about culture.
- Stephanie** :- What about the historical sites and paintings?

Kamal :- Of course, they too are important. The taboos, codes, tools and symbols used in a community are also of cultural significance.

Geetha :- Yes, but don't forget that culture changes with time.

Kamal :- That's true,

Geetha :- What a wonderful session it has been! We started speaking about the cultural show and ended up with a good knowledge about culture.

Activity 2.1 Comprehension

■ Writing

Answer the questions in your writing book.

- a**
1. What are the students organizing ?
 2. Who thinks that it is going to be exciting ?
 3. Why are the students organizing this event ?
 4. How did Kamal get to know about culture ?
 5. Write the sentence which shows that culture is not static.
- b**
6. What are the things the organizing committee will have to look into ?
 7. Refer to a dictionary and find the definition of ' Culture'.
 8. Why is culture important to people ?

Activity 2.2 Pair work - Vocabulary

*Join the words in A with their meanings in B.
Write in your writing book.*

A	B
1. promote	ban or prohibition on something that is regarded as not to be done, touched or used for religious or other reasons.
2. couple of days	encourage or support
3. hectic	single, continuous period spent in one activity
4. involved	importance
5. rituals	set of laws or rules arranged in a system
6. sites	very busy
7. taboos	a few days
8. codes	concerned with something
9. significance	series of actions used in a religious or some other ceremony
10. session	a place where buildings or towns are situated/ found

Activity 2.3

■ Writing

Fill in the blanks with suitable words selected from the list given in 2.2. Write in your writing book.

1. Today people lead a _____ life.
2. Some cultures have many _____ .
3. There's a _____ on smoking in this office.
4. We'll be getting our vacation in a _____ .
5. The ancient _____ of Sri Lanka takes us to a world of wonder.
6. It is important to _____ brotherhood and love among all citizens.
7. The recording _____ at the S.L.B.C. was very interesting.
8. The practice of moral _____ is important for the well- being of a society.
9. Respecting elders is of _____ in our society.
10. The students were _____ in cleaning the school during the Shramadana.

Activity 2.4 Pair work

■ Reading / Writing

Read the following notice.

NOTICE

There will be an **exhibition**
organized by
the Interact club of
Ranminithenna Maha Vidyalaya
on the **15th of May 2012**
From **8.30 a.m to 2.30 p.m**
at the Main Hall.
All are welcome.

The Principal	Teacher in Charge
Date	Interact Club

- Read the given notice and design a notice for the school notice board, inviting students to the cultural show.
- Mention the date,time, venue and purpose.

NOTICE	

Principal Date	Teacher in charge (organizing committee)

Activity 2.6 Pair work

■ Writing

As the Secretary of the organizing committee, write a letter to the principal of your school, requesting for permission to hold the cultural festival. Include the following.

- * Date * Time * Have practices for 2 weeks
- * Permission to have it in the school hall

Complete the letter in your writing book.

The Principal	-----
-----	-----
-----	-----

Dear Sir,	
Request for permission	
This is to inform you that we are hoping to have the cultural festival on	

	Yours sincerely

	(Name)
	Secretary
	Organizing Committee

The Betel Leaf

■ *Reading*

This is a presentation made by a student of grade 11 on “The importance of the betel leaf.”.

My presentation is on the importance of the betel leaf. A sheaf of betel is associated almost with every important event and milestone of our lives. It is used in welcoming, showing reverence, communicating good and bad news and demonstrating social give and take. In the rural society even today a visitor to the house is made welcome by offering betel leaves from the tray. Sharing betel is a sign of companionship. The tray of betel leaves cuts across all social distinctions. It gives one equality. In ancient times it was found in every household - rich or poor .



It is also a sign of affection. One may prepare a chew for a relation or a friend as a token of companionship. The betel is offered by the young to the elders as a symbol of respect. A person would offer it with the stem away from one’s self. Sometimes he may go down on his knees, once the sheaf is accepted. On the Sinhala and Tamil New Year’s day it is customary for the young to offer a sheaf of betel to the elders and worship them.

The chief guest for a cultural function would be invited with a sheaf of betel. At a funeral house the betel is arranged upside down on the betel tray. A student on his first day in school and after the new year would offer a sheaf of betel and worship his or her teacher. Betel is significant in the performance of the Sinhala marriage customs. Relatives are invited for weddings with the betel leaf, like an invitation card. A family will get as many leaves as the numbers invited.

At ceremonies when money is exchanged the money would be on a betel leaf or wrapped in it. This adds dignity to the deed. This is because till recent times Sri Lankan society held no respect for cash. In the past, Buddhist priests and Ayurvedic physicians were never offered money.

Activity 2.7 Pair work

■ *Reading / Writing*

Read the text and list the occasions on which the sheaf of betel / betel leaf is used.

Activity 2.8 Pair work

■ *Writing*

- (i) Write 5 sentences about one of the occasions you listed above.
- (ii) List the occasions in which the following items are used.
garland, oil lamp, candles, etc.

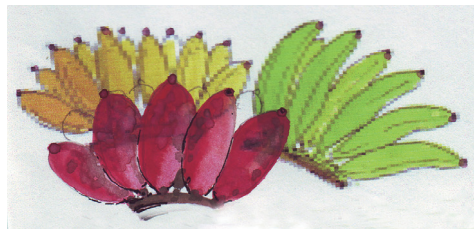
Activity 2.9

■ *Reading*

The Comb of Bananas

The following presentation made by another student attempts to show that the comb of bananas is also significant today like the sheaf of betel.

I wish to speak on the significance of the banana in our day to day life. The comb of bananas too is culturally important like the sheaf of betel. The comb of bananas is favoured as a gift. It occupies a significant place in the traditional table laid along with other sweet meats like *kevun* (oil cakes), *kokis*, and milkrice. The comb of bananas too cuts across social distinctions. A poor man could offer a comb of bananas from his crop to the richest man and no distinctions are made.



The comb of bananas occupies a significant place in the '*pooja*' tray at the Hindu kovil. The banana is one kind of fruit applied on the god's body in performing the *abisekham* ceremony. This is done to get the god's blessings. The yellow colour of the banana is considered a sign of prosperity. Therefore, the bananas secure an important place in the trays used in ceremonies, such as engagements, weddings etc. of the Hindus.

Activity 2.10 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Refer to a dictionary and write down the meanings of the following words. Then write a sentence to make the meaning clear.

- (1) distinctions
- (2) prepare
- (3) performance
- (4) significance
- (5) customs

Activity 2.11 Pair work

■ *Writing*

List the uses of the betel and the banana under the categories - Social and Religious in your writing book.

Social	Religious
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

Activity 2.12 Group work

■ *Writing*

Make sentences using the following phrases.

a comb of bananas, a garland of flowers, a sheaf of betel, a box of sweets, a plate of milkrice.

Activity 2.13 Group work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

a. Ask the members of your group the following questions and complete the grid in your writing book.

(a) What is your favourite traditional dish?

(b) Why do you like it ?

Name	Favourite traditional food item	Reason

Find out the nutritional value of the above mentioned food items.

Then write a short paragraph with the information you have got.

b. “The use of flowers in modern society”

***Draft your notes on the above topic.**

***Prepare your oral presentation.**

***Present it to the class.**

Activity 2.14 Pair work

■ *Reading / Writing*

Today in the modern world cards are very common. People use cards to say “Congratulations”, “Sorry”, “Thank you”. The most common is the wedding invitation card. People invite others for different occasions using invitation cards. Given below is a model of a wedding card.

(1) Mr . & Mrs. H .S . Fernando

(2) request the pleasure of the company of

(3)Mr / Mrs / Miss

(4)on the occasion of the marriage of their daughter

Himali

to

Chandrasiri

*(son of Mr. & Mrs . N . P . G . de Silva
of 28B , Muruthalawa Road , Peradeniya)*

(5) *On Thursday the 17th Of September 2008*

(6) *from 3.00 p . m . to 6.00 p . m .*

(7) *at Queens Hotel , Kandy*

(8) *(Poruwa Ceremony at 3.18 p . m .)*

(9) *35 , Hewaheta Rd,
Kandy.*

(10) *R . S . V . P.
(Regrets only)*

All the essential parts of the invitation are numbered 1-10. Match them with the names of the parts given below. Write in your writing book.

- (a) Occasion
- (b) Place of the Occasion
- (c) A reply is expected if you are not coming
- (d) The name of the person inviting
- (e) Day , date , month and year of the occasion .
- (f) The names of the invitees .
- (g) The invitation
- (h) Time
- (i) Address of the host

Activity 2.15 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Write a very short letter inviting a friend or relative for a family event like an alms giving or a house - warming. Write in your writing book.

The letter should have

- your address, date
- salutation
- date, time of event
- invitation
- close with your signature

Legends

■ Reading

There are many legends connected with the betel leaf. There is a legend which says that the betel leaf was brought from the land of the *nagas*.



There is another legend about a person who had to provide betel to the palace. He had to prepare “seven chews” of betel for the king at different times of the day. He was an ordinary villager, and soon he came to be known by the job he was given, “Bulatha”.

He had to trudge a long distance over a hill to perform this duty. Legend says that Bulatha’s wife who brought his lunch everyday thought of making a stone flight of steps, as it would make her journey easier. Each day she carried two stones and laid them as steps. The hill with these man made steps is still known as “*gal padi hela*.” Some say it was Bulatha who did the steps.

There is another legend about the making of the Sorabora wewa (tank) by Bulatha. During his journey to the palace, he is said to have brought loads of sand and rock to the place where the *wewa* is. He had succeeded in making a dam across the river, creating a tank.

The story of this lake reached the king too. The king decided to visit him at his work. He was praised by the king. Sorabora wewa is one of the earliest hydrological constructions in our country. It is in Mahiyanganaya which is one of the earliest seats of civilization in Sri Lanka.

There are many folk tales and folk songs about the beauty of “Soraborawewa”. The stone sluice of Soraborawewa is considered a feat of engineering skill, unsurpassed.

The people respected Bulatha and his wife for they had made the work of ordinary man easier. Now the villagers could climb the hill easily over the steps and use the water of the lake for their agriculture.

At a time when we talk so much about work and wages, it is important to remember that there were people who did good work and did not think of payment.

Activity 2.16

■ *Speaking / Presentation*

Discuss with your elders / teachers a similar story and write it down in your writing book. Present your story to the class.

Activity 2.17 Pair work

■ *Pre- reading*

Find words from the text “Queen Victoria” 2.18 which are similar or very much the same as the following words or phrases. Write the words in your writing book.

- (i) showing quality that earns respect
- (ii) happening too soon
- (iii) principles of good behaviour
- (iv) group of countries or states under a single ruler.
- (v) people under one’s control
- (vi) criticize
- (vii) successful
- (viii) poet officially appointed to the Royal Household in Britain to write poems for state occasions.