

The Sangha

6

Act Out

Venerable Sumana is the English teacher at Siri Sangabo Pirivena . He has brought a picture of a Buddhist monk to the class.

Venerable Sumana : May the Triple Gem bless you, students! Do you know what the Triple Gem is?

Chamil : Venerable Sir, as I've heard, it's the Buddha, Dhamma, and the Sangha.

Venerable Sumana : Do you know that they are considered as a treasure for Buddhists ?

Chamil : That's true, Venerable Sir. Who is in that picture in your hand?

Venerable Sumana : Haven't you heard of him? He's Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Thero. He was a noble Buddhist monk who dedicated his life for the happiness and well-being of others.

Chamil : Venerable Sir, can you tell us more about him?

Venerable Sumana : Yes, certainly. The main purpose of today's lesson is to teach you about Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Thero.



Activity 01

1. What is the name of the pirivena?
2. Who is the English teacher in this pirivena?
3. What did the teacher bring to the classroom?
4. What were they going to learn in class today?

Liaison Vowels

Vowels which are silent in pronunciation are known as liaison vowels.

eg:- Measure

Leisure

Activity 02 - Grammar

Find the words with liaison vowels from the dialogue.

- a. ar -
- b. ir -
- c. ur -



The Most Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Nayaka Thero

The Most Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Nayaka Thero was a famous Sri Lankan Buddhist monk and a well-known author. He is mostly respected as a scholar of the Thripitka in the 20th century.

Born on 19th July 1897 in Rerukana in the Kalutara district, Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Thero's lay name was Rubel Gunawardena. He had his primary education at Veediyagoda school (now known as Veediyagoda Maha Vidyalaya). Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Thero entered the Order as a novice Buddhist monk (Samanera) on 08th January 1906. Since his teacher was a Burmese Buddhist monk called U. Vinayalankara Maha Thero, Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Thero received his higher ordination in Burma on 26th October 1917.

He was also known as a well- disciplined meditation trainer, as well as a recipient of the title Professor of Abhidhamma conferred to him by Vidyalankara University. He was the former Chief Prelate (Maha Nayaka) of the Swegin chapter of the Amarapura sector. Many of his books such as Buddha Neethi Sangrahaya , Patichcha Samuppadaya and Ubhaya Prathimokshaya have been used as textbooks by other scholars as well as students. He passed away on 4th July 1987.

Activity 03 - Reading

Read and answer the questions given below.

- i. What is the Most Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Nayaka Thero well - known for?
- ii. Where was he born?
- iii. What was his lay name?
- iv. When was he ordained?
- v. Where did he get his higher ordination from?

Activity 04

Read the text and complete the table.

School attended	Name of the Teacher	Positions held	Books written	Passed away

Activity 05

Match the groups of words in A and B to make meaningful sentences.

A

1. Venerable R. Chandawimala was a great scholar
2. His lay name was
3. He was the former Chief Prelate
4. He was also a
5. He received his higher ordination

B

- a. Rubel Gunawardena.
- b. of the Swegin chapter.
- c. meditation trainer.
- d. on 26th October 1917.
- e. in the 20th century.

Activity 6

Read the passage on most Venerable Rerukane Chandawimala Nayaka Thero again and write the words that describe the nouns.

Describing word	Noun
	monk ordination education author trainer

Reading

A Buddhist Monk

A monk can perform his tasks under many different conditions. He lives only on what is given to him. That he is such a contented one that is happy with anything that falls on to his bowl. It is the laity who take care of the monk's needs.

The Sangha on their part, give the laity advice to conduct their lives in the most correct way. In general, the members of the Sangha teach the Dhamma to help everybody to see the reality very clearly and to reduce their sufferings. A monk always bears in mind that his disciples' spiritual well-being depends on him. There are seven benefits that this relationship would bring to the monk if he protects his virtues well, is always active in his practices of inner progress, doesn't harm any person, has no vanity and is conscientious in his practice or his studies. He connects himself only with what is necessary.



Activity 07 - Grammar

Some words can function as both adjectives and adverbs.

e.g.:- If he protects his virtues well. (adverb)
He is not well. (adjective)

Discuss with your friends and find other similar words that function as both adjectives and adverbs.

Activity 08 - Reading

a. Match column A with column B.

A	B
1. Take care of	a. Be decided by
2. Falls on	b. remember
3. Bear in mind	c. comes to
4. Depend on	d. tend

b. Use the phrases in column A to complete the blanks with the following sentences.

1. Ascetic Siddhartha was satisfied only with whatto the ground.
2. Our chief incumbent and the teachers all the students.
3. Children teachers for knowledge.
4. We must that our future depends on what we do today.

Most Venerable Narada Thero

(1) There is no need to introduce Narada Thero to Sri Lankans. This has been a very familiar name among the Buddhists of Sri Lanka over five decades. He is popular among them as he preached to both minds and hearts of people.

(2) He believed that there is some good in everyone. So he encouraged the good in man in order to make him better.

(3) Venerable Narada had a special ability to explain very deep Buddhist philosophy and psychology in such simple language that even a person who is unfamiliar with Buddhism can understand it. He was successful in getting the attention of his listeners because of his carefully selected words and controlled tone.

(4) When we talk about his writings, they are direct and clear. Most western critics appreciate Buddhism for its sweet reasonableness. Venerable Narada should be credited for this realization.

(5) Due to his untiring Dhammaduta (missionary) work abroad and his books on Buddhism, Venerable Narada Thero is well known in Buddhist circles and among those who follow Buddhism.

Activity 9

Read the above five paragraphs and match them with the paraphrased ideas given below. Write the number of the paragraph in the space given.

- (a) He encourages everybody to be virtuous. (.....)
- (b) He is an excellent writer and a messenger of Buddhism. (.....)
- (c) Venerable Narada Thero is loved and respected by Sri Lankans.

- (.....)
- (d) Venerable Narada Thero is famous among people devoted to
Buddhism
in other countries. (.....)
- (e) He is a good teacher and a preacher for all. (.....)

Learning Point

Need to

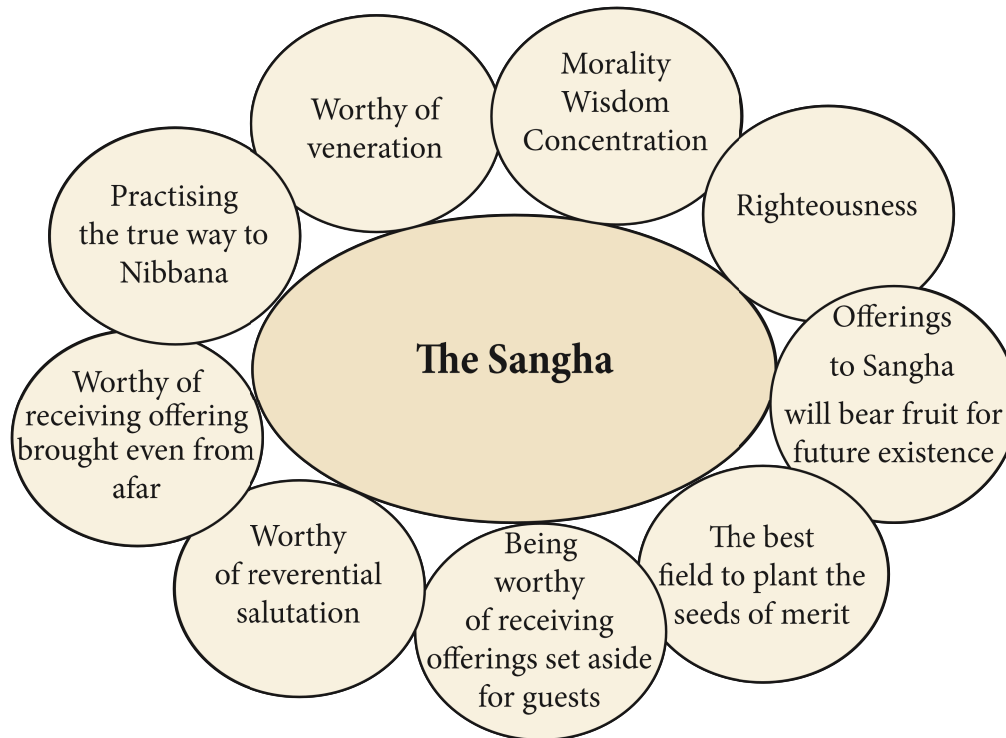
Need is usually followed by an infinitive with “to.”
e.g.:- You need to study hard if you want to pass the exam.
All Buddhists need to follow the five precepts..

Activity 10 - Grammar

Write five meaningful sentences with “ need to.”

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

Qualities of the Sangha



Learning Point

Syllabic Patterns

A word consists of one or more syllables.

e.g.:- Car – one syllabic

Carpet – two syllabic

Carpenter – three syllabic

Activity 11 - Pronunciation

Find words from the above diagram to complete the following grid.

One syllabic	Two syllabic	Three syllabic	Four syllabic