



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	Teacher in charge
Date	(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.

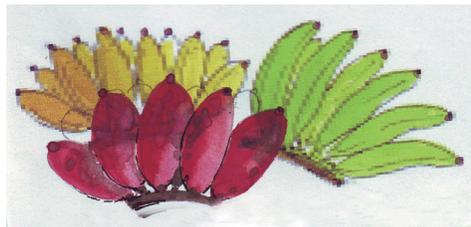
Activity 2.9

■ *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.

Activity 2.18

■ *Reading*

Queen Victoria

The British came to Sri Lanka during the reign of Queen Victoria. As a result, our country is also influenced by Victorian values. During the Victorian period, which takes its name from Queen Victoria, fiction, poetry, drama, music and other forms of Literature flourished in England. The influence of Victorian values was left in our country too.

Alexandra Victoria, born on 24th of May 1818, became the Queen of England in 1832, and ruled the country till her death. She died on the 22nd of January 1909.

In 1840, she married her distant cousin Albert. He was a German prince. His ideas about queenly dignity changed Victoria's carefree outlook. As a result, the Victorian period is known for stern morality.

Before she came to the throne, the British rulers were not popular and had lost the respect of their subjects. Victoria had a strong sense of duty and her personal conduct was above reproach. She won back the respect and devotion of her subjects.

During her reign from 1837 - 1901 Britain reached the heights of its power and prosperity. The British empire extended around the globe. Clocks around the world were set by Greenwich Mean Time. (GMT)

The Victorian period was the great age of the English novel. Thackeray and Dickens are two figures who tower over the Victorian novel. Alfred Lord Tennyson who was made England's poet laureate in 1850, has been called the voice of Victorian England.



Activity 2.19 Pair work

■ *Comprehension*

- A 1. When did Victoria become Queen ?
2. Who was her husband ?
3. How old was she when she died ?
4. What nationality was her husband ?
5. Who are the novelists and poets who brought fame to this period?
6. Find a sentence which expresses the significance of the Victorian period.
7. What did the people feel for the British rulers before the time of Queen Victoria?
8. How did she win the respect of her subjects?

- B 9. What was the extent of the British empire?
10. What did Prince Albert want Victoria to do ?

Activity 2.20 Group work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

King Parakramabahu VI who lived in the Kotte Kingdom was a scholar. His period is considered as the golden era in Sinhalese Literature. That was the heyday of 'Sandesa Poetry'.

Speak to your elders / teachers and write an account of the times of

King Parakramabahu VI.

Activity 2.21 Grammar

■ *Writing*

Complex Sentences

- ◆ A sentence consisting of a main clause and one or more subordinate clauses is a complex sentence.
- ◆ A subordinate clause can be joined to the main clause with relative pronouns such as who, which, where, that, when etc.

Find the main clause and the subordinate clause of the following sentences and write them in your writing book.

e.g. Thackeray and Dickens are two figures who tower over the Victorian novel.

Main clause	Subordinate clause
Thackeray and Dickens are two figures	who tower over the Victorian novel.

1. Nirmala is the girl who won the 100m race.
2. Saman wore the shirt that he bought at the fair.
3. This is the house which belongs to my uncle.
4. I went to school while it was raining heavily.
5. This is the village where Thackeray was born.

Activity 2.22 Pair work

■ *Writing*

*Join each of these pairs of sentences to form a complex sentence.
Use the words in the brackets to join the sentences and write them in
your writing book.*

- e.g. ■ In 1840 Queen Victoria married her distant cousin Albert. (who)
■ He was a German prince.

In 1840 Queen Victoria married her distant cousin Albert who was a German prince.

- (1) On Saturday morning Geetha went to the library.
It lends books.
(which)

- (2) It is refreshing to eat fruits.
They grow in the village.
(that)

- (3) Nimali studied very hard for the O/L examinations.
It was held last year.
(which)

- (4) It started raining .
Sanath Jayasuriya was scoring at a rate.
(when)

Activity 2.23

■ Reading

The customs and traditions of a culture influence the way its people dress. What a person wears for certain occasions is often governed by tradition. Many people still wear national or traditional costumes, the Kandyan and Indian saree, shalwar kameez, the Japanese kimono, to celebrate a special event.

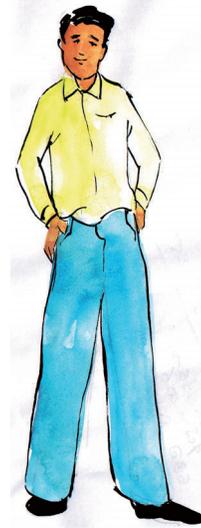


In oriental and Islamic cultures, clothing traditions that developed early in the history of the country were later established as rules, to be followed. Respect for tradition thus discouraged changes in styles of dress. The same is true of clothing in Africa, Polynesia and the native cultures of Latin America.



In the West the tradition was to break it rather than keep it. Therefore changes and experimentation in clothing came to be admired. Thus there has been a great variety of changes in the history of Western dress.

Since recent times , in Sri Lanka the saree , shalwar kameez , shirt and trousers have become popular among all the communities.



Activity 2.24 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Write sentences on your own, using the underlined words/ phrases.

Activity 2.25 Pair work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

There are certain important events where traditional clothes according to the different cultures have to be worn.

- (a) **List the different situations and ceremonies where traditional clothes are worn and name the special clothing.**
- (b) **Write a description of a traditional dress worn at a cultural function. Write in your writing book.**

eg :- at a wedding ceremony

Describe the bride's / bride groom's clothing - Kandyan, low country , North Indian , South Indian or Western.

◆ Write using the simple present tense. Start this way :

eg :- The Kandyan bride wears the traditional Kandyan saree-----

Activity 2.26 Group work

■ *Listening / Speaking*

Clothing is one area where cultural changes have played a major role.

- ◆ **List the different types of clothes worn now in our country.**
- ◆ **Match them as you think is suitable with the different age groups and professions.**
- ◆ **Report your findings to the class.**

Activity 2.27 Pair work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

Though different kinds of fashionable clothing is worn in Sri Lanka, the saree or the National costume is still considered a fashionable dress.

Prepare a short speech based on the following guide lines.

- When it is worn (consider both formal and informal)
- How it ranges from simple to grand
- The countries where it is popular
- How it gives us identity as Asians around the globe

Activity 2.28 Group work

■ *Speaking*

Have a class debate on the topic

Should we wear traditional clothes?

Should we wear 'modern' clothes?

Activity 2.29 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Study the words given in box A and B

A	clothes	saree, long-sleeved shirt, short-sleeved shirt, skirt, sarong, blouse, frock, etc.
B	parts of the body	legs, knees, ankles, neck, head, arms, elbows, wrists, etc.

Study the following sentences.

- e.g. (1) The saree covers the lower part of the body upto the ankles.
(2) The long-sleeved shirt covers the arm upto the wrist.

Now write 5 similar sentences.

Activity 2.30 Pair work

■ *Speaking / Writing*

Match the pictures with the descriptions given below. Write in your writing book.

(1)

- a) The huge figure of Zeus the king of the gods stood in the Temple of Zeus at Olympia in Greece. The statue was 40 feet high and touched the lofty temple ceiling.

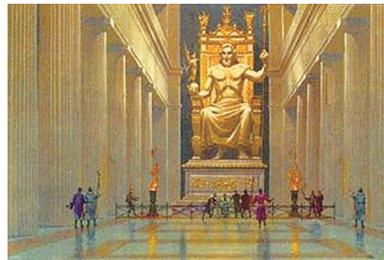


- b) The Great wall of China was built to protect China's Northern border in the 3rd century BC. It consists of a network of walls and towers. It stretches to about 2400 km.

(2)



- c) The Big Ben is at one end of the Westminster Palace in London. It strikes the hour in distinctive tones.



(3)

Activity 2.31 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Now write a few sentences about each picture. Write in your writing book. You may start this way.

e.g. A visitor to ----- will visit-----

Activity 2.32 Pair work

■ *Reading*

Cleopatra

William Shakespeare, the playwright wrote 37 plays. They are categorized as comedies, tragedies and histories. A comedy is a play (story) that has a happy ending and a tragedy is a play (story) that has a sad ending. Sometimes it is not easy to decide the category; some histories are tragedies like the plays Julius Caesar, Antony and Cleopatra.

Cleopatra the empress of Egypt is considered one of the most beautiful women who ever lived. She was not only beautiful, she was intelligent too. The former rulers of Rome, Caesar and Mark Antony were in love with her.

The people in Rome were curious about Cleopatra. They wanted to know, why their beloved rulers fell in love with this foreign woman.

Enorbabus, who had seen Cleopatra sailing in her barge on the Nile described her. The poetry of Enorbabus makes Cleopatra even more beautiful in the minds of people.



■ **Enrichment**

Read and enjoy this poem.

CLEOPATRA IN HER BARGE

The barge she sat in, like a burnished throne,
Burn'd on the water, the poop was beaten gold
Purple the sails, and so perfumed, that
The winds were love - sick with them, the oars were silver,
Which to the tune of flutes kept stroke, and made
The water which they beat to follow faster,
As amorous of their strokes. For her own person,
It beggared all description, she did lie
In her pavilion - cloth - of gold - of tissue -
O'er picturing that Venus, where we see
The fancy out work nature, on each side her
Stood pretty - dimpled boys, like smiling cupids,
With diverse - colour'd fans, whose wind did seem
To glow the delicate cheeks which they did cool,
And what they undid did.

(Antony and Cleopatra, Act 2- ii)

burnished	-	shiny, polished
poop	-	raised deck at the back end of a ship or boat
amorous	-	showing / feeling a sense of love
Venus	-	goddess of love
dimpled	-	small hollow in cheek or chin
pavilion	-	a temporary building that is meant to be more beautiful than useful.
diverse	-	very different from each other and of various kinds.
glow	-	to produce a dull, steady light .

Activity 2.33 Pair work

■ Reading / Writing

- (1) **Read the first three lines and fill in the blanks with the following words. Write in your writing book.**

(Cleopatra, poop, sails, barge or boat)

- (i) ----- sat in the barge.
(ii) The----- was like a burnished throne.
(iii) The ----- of the barge was beaten gold.
(iv) The ----- of the barge were purple and perfumed.

- (2) **Read lines 4,5,and 6 and underline the correct word which is indicated by the highlighted word.**

- (a) The winds were in love with **them** (sails,gold)
(b) **Which** to the tune of flutes kept stroke (oars, barge)
(c) The water which **they** beat to follow faster.(wind, oars)

Read the same lines and fill in the blanks.

- (d) The oars were ----- the water.
The oars kept ----- to the music of -----
The oars made ----- , on the water

- (3) What word tells you that all description was made poor because Cleopatra was so very beautiful ?
- (4) Where did Cleopatra lie ?
- (5) What did she wear ?
- (6) Who is a cupid ?
- (7) Read the next few lines and give a description of the boys who are on either side of her.
- (8) Whom were they fanning ?
- (9) Why did they fan her ?
- (10) What happened to Cleopatra's cheeks then ?

Activity 2.34 Pair work

■ *Writing*

Now write a short description of Cleopatra.

Activity 2.35 Group work

■ *Writing*

Find out a poem which describes a beautiful / good woman in your own literature and write the story about her.

Activity 2.36

■ *Reading*

Jawaharlal Nehru is a name that will never be forgotten by India or the world. He is remembered for his contribution to his motherland ; he along with Mahatma Gandhi, and Subash Chandra Bose led the fight for independence. We will understand his greatness more when we remember that he 'mothered' his daughter, Indira. Nehru's wife died very early of tuberculosis, when Indira was still a small child. He makes a very moving reference to his wife, about her death, - that 'all that remains now is a small casket which contains her ashes.' From then on, Nehru was both father and mother to his daughter. Indira was only a little girl when Nehru was put into prison. Even there, he did not neglect his daughter. He wrote 'Letters to a Daughter' to educate her and bring her up well.

The life and conduct of Nehru shows us that you cannot be a "Father of the Nation" - if you neglect your own duties as a father.

1. Why does the writer say that the name Jawaharlal Nehru will not be forgotten?
2. What do you understand by the last paragraph? Explain.
3. Learn the meanings of the underlined words and write a sentence on each one.
4. Write a short account about a great person that you like.