

talk
to
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

Beehive

2. The Sound Of Music

Part I

Evelyn Glennie Listens to Sound without Hearing it

by

Deborah Cowley

1. Summary

The Sound of Music is the truly inspiring story of Evelyn Glennie who turned deaf by the age of eleven years, yet went on to become a world-famous percussionist. She learnt to play the piano as a young girl, and developed a passion for music. The loss of hearing did not break her spirit. The famous percussionist Ron Forbes encouraged her to continue with her music. He told her to listen to the drums not through her ears, but through other parts of her body. She learned to do this, and through hard work and great determination she overcame her physical disability and became a world-famous musician. She has won many prestigious awards and has been an inspiration to millions.

2. Something Interesting

1. Listen to Evelyn Glennie's extraordinary performance. She is really inspiring!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YMZeBJJ5JJc>

2. See how Evelyn Glennie feels sound. Click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gl2a6w6sTAs&feature=youtu.be>

3. Does Losing One Sense Improve the Others?

We all know the five senses that we humans possess – sight, smell, taste, touch, and hearing. These senses are controlled by different parts of the brain. If you lose your sense of sight, for example, the part of the brain that controls sight will actually decrease in size, while other areas of the

brain will actually become larger! So the other senses will become stronger.
The brain is a miraculous machine!

4. Vocabulary

1. **Jostle** - to push or bump into someone roughly, mostly in a crowd
I **jostled** my way through the crowd to get a closer look at the Prime Minister.
2. **Slight** - thin
The new girl in my class is so short and **slight** that she looks much younger than us.
3. **Prestigious** - respected. Having high status
This is the most **prestigious** school in the city.
4. **Vibrations** - quivering, shaking movement
I got nervous when I felt the **vibrations** of the aircraft as it was taking off.
5. **Daunting** - seeming to be difficult to deal with
The thought of appearing for my Board exams next month is very **daunting**.
6. **Aspiring** - having a strong desire
She always studies very hard as she is **aspiring** to go to medical college.
7. **Profoundly** - very deeply
The song they sang at assembly this morning was **profoundly** moving.
8. **Conceal** - hide; keep secret
I cannot **conceal** anything from my mother, as she always seems to know what I am thinking.
9. **Deteriorate** - to get worse
My grandmother is in hospital and we are so worried because her health is **deteriorating** every day.
10. **Urge** - persuade
I **urged** my brother to work hard as he was in his final year of school and the exams were only a month away.
11. **Impaired** - weakened. Damaged
Finding jobs for sight- **impaired** people can be very difficult.

12. **Pursue** - to follow, chase
My father always advises me to **pursue** my dream of becoming a pilot when I grow up.
13. **Determined** - to be firm about, committed to
I am **determined** to come first in my class this year.
14. **Percussionist** - someone who plays musical instruments like drums, tabla, and cymbals
Zakir Hussain is the most famous **percussionist** in India, because no one else can play the tabla like he does.
15. **Potential** - having the capacity of developing into something in the future
The teacher told me I had the **potential** to be class monitor next year so I must be very good this term.
16. **Sheer** - complete
I found my mobile phone by **sheer** luck as it rang just as I was searching for it.
17. **Auditioned** - tested a performer's talent
All the children in my music class were asked to **audition** for a role in this year's Annual Day function.
18. **Heroic** - very brave, courageous, like a hero
Many soldiers received medals this Republic Day for their **heroic** actions.
19. **Hectic**- very busy
Things get very **hectic** in school just before the exam week, with extra classes, extra homework and mock tests.
20. **Intriguing** - arousing one's curiosity
I found it very **intriguing** that Evelyn could play the drums despite being deaf.
She is an **intriguing** person who constantly keeps you guessing.
21. **Lilt** – a pleasant rhythm and accent, way of speaking
Reena has a Bengali **lilt** in her voice when she speaks.
22. **Tingle** - a slight prickling or stinging sensation
My skin was **tingling** with excitement when the exam results were being announced.

23. **Resonances** - the quality in a sound of being full, deep
The **resonance** of the drums being played loudly in the auditorium was quite disturbing.
24. **Inspiration** - the stimulus to feel or do something, specially something creative
Mahatma Gandhi will continue to be an **inspiration** for many generations.

5. Questions

- I. Answer these questions in a few words or a couple of sentences each.
 1. How old was Evelyn when she went to the Royal Academy of Music?
 2. When was her deafness first noticed? When was it confirmed?
- II. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30-40 words)
 1. Who helped her to continue with music? What did he do and say?
 2. Name the various places and causes for which Evelyn performs.
- III. Answer the question in two or three paragraphs (100-150 words)
 1. How does Evelyn hear Music?

Part II

The Shehnai of Bismillah Khan

1. Summary

The shehnai is a melodious wind instrument. It was created by a barber in the court of emperor Aurangzeb, to replace a very shrill musical instrument called the pungi. Ustad Bismillah Khan is the most famous shehnai maestro. He was born into a family of famous shehnai players. From the age of three, Bismillah was fascinated watching his uncles practise the shehnai. His uncle, Ali Bux would play the shehnai and Bismillah would sit captivated for hours on end. Slowly, he started getting lessons in playing the instrument and practiced throughout the day. He got his first big opportunity to perform when All India Radio opened in Lucknow and he started playing for them. This made him so famous that he was asked to play the shehnai from the ramparts of the Red Fort on India's Independence Day. He was honoured with numerous awards including the Bharat Ratna. He performed all over the world, but he never moved away from his beloved Benares and the banks of the Ganges river.

2. Something Interesting

Click on the link below to listen to Ustad Bismillah Khan play the shehnai.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QL8C4Y1xdQ>

Do you know about India's highest Civilian Awards?

The Government of India announces 4 civilian awards on Republic Day each year. These are: Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri.

Bharat Ratna

Bharat Ratna is the highest civilian award of the country. It is awarded in recognition of exceptional service/ performance of the highest order in any field of human endeavour. It is treated on a different footing from the Padma Awards. The recommendations for Bharat Ratna are made by the Prime Minister to the President of India. No formal recommendations for Bharat Ratna are necessary. The number of Bharat Ratna Awards is restricted to a maximum of three in a

particular year. The government has conferred Bharat Ratna Award on 45 persons till now.

Padma Awards

Padma Awards, which were instituted in the year 1954, are announced every year on the occasion of Republic Day. The awards are given in three categories, namely,

- **Padma Vibhushan** for exceptional and distinguished service;
- **Padma Bhushan** for distinguished service of a high order; and
- **Padma Shri** for distinguished service.

3. Vocabulary

1. **Maestro** - a master, someone who can do something very well, specially a musician
Pandit Ravi Shankar was a world-renowned sitar **maestro**.
2. **Shrill** - sharp, piercing
Our new class teacher has a very **shrill** voice.
3. **Generic** - general, not specific, basic
Generic medicines are normally cheaper than branded ones.
4. **Reeded**- made from a firm stemmed, straight plant that grows mostly in water or marsh
The shehnai is a **reeded** musical instrument.
5. **Access** - way in, entry
The **access** to our school is through a narrow lane.
6. **Royalty** - people who belong to the family of a king or queen.
The British **royalty** invited all the kings of Europe to a royal banquet.
7. **Auspicious** - favourable
It is considered **auspicious** to get married on a full moon night.
8. **Indispensable** - absolutely necessary
My friend made herself **indispensable** to our class teacher, so she was made the class monitor.

9. **Component** – a part of a whole
The national anthem is an essential **component** of our school assembly.
10. **Traditional** - customary, long established, conventional
It is **traditional** in our family to welcome the bridegroom home with a devotional song.
11. **Ensemble** – a group of musicians, dancers or actors who perform together
I am part of our school folk dance **ensemble**.
12. **Ancient** - belonging to the distant past
The Taj Mahal is India's most famous **ancient** monument.
13. **Civilian** - not related to the army or police force
Many **civilian** and military awards are announced by the President on Republic Day.
14. **Paternal** - related through the father
My father's brother's son is my only **paternal** cousin.
15. **Maternal** - related through the mother, motherly
My mother's older sister is my favourite **maternal** relative.
16. **Ancestors** - grandparents, great grandparents, great, great grandparents etc., from whom we have descended
It is believed that apes are the **ancestors** of humans.
17. **Accompanying** - going with someone or something else
I was **accompanying** my mother to the market when we saw an elephant dancing on the road.
18. **Captivated** - hold the interest of, attracted by
I was absolutely **captivated** by my friend's beauty.
19. **Apprentice** - trainee
Bismillah Khan started his musical career as an **apprentice** to his uncle, Ali Bux Khan.
20. **Haunts** - places that a specific person visits often
The lawns of India Gate were my favourite **haunts** when I was a child.
21. **Solitude** - the situation of being alone
I like to walk in **solitude**, as it gives me time to get my thoughts in order.

22. **Improvise** - to invent, create or perform music, drama, speech etc., at the time it is needed, without preparation
I had to **improvise** a speech when the Principal suddenly asked me to talk about 'Pollution' at the school assembly.
23. **Memorable** - worth remembering because of being special or unusual
Pandit Nehru's 'Tryst with destiny' is the most **memorable** speech I have ever heard.
24. **Chartbuster** – a best-selling recording
Many of Sonu Nigam's songs became **chartbusters**.
25. **Celluloid** – a type of plastic used to make many things, especially photographic film because of which this word came to stand for movies in general.
Until recently most movies were filmed on **celluloid**.
26. **Emphasis** - the particular importance or attention that is given to something.
We must place great **emphasis** on the need to keep our surroundings clean.
27. **Coveted** - strongly desired
My cousin and I both applied for a coveted job with an airline.
28. **Conferred** - granted or gave an honour or title to someone.
An honorary degree was **conferred** on the Prime Minister by the Ahmedabad University.
29. **Exceedingly** - extremely
My grandfather lived an **exceedingly** long life; he passed away at the age of 100.
30. **Replicating** - to make or do something again in exactly the same way
I got tired of **replicating** the same Chemistry experiment over and over again.
31. **Yearning** - a great desire or wish for something
I felt a great **yearning** for home when I was at boarding school.
32. **Heritage** - something that is handed down from the past, as a tradition
Sonam was very proud of his Tibetan **heritage**.

33. **Devout** - very religious
 Mahatma Gandhi was a **devout** Hindu.

4. Questions

I. Tick the right answer.

1. The (*shehnai, pungi*) was a ‘reeded noisemaker.’
2. (Bismillah Khan, A barber, Ali Bux) transformed the *pungi* into a *shehnai*.
3. Bismillah Khan’s paternal ancestors were (barbers, professional musicians).
4. Bismillah Khan learnt to play the *shehnai* from (Ali Bux, Paigambar Bux, and Ustad Faiyaaz Khan).
5. Bismillah Khan’s first trip abroad was to (Afghanistan, U.S.A., Canada).

II. Find the words in the text which show Ustad Bismillah Khan’s feelings about the items listed below. Then mark a tick (✓) in the correct column. Discuss your answers in class.

<i>Bismillah Khan’s feelings about</i>	<i>Positive</i>	<i>Negative</i>	<i>Neutral</i>
1. teaching children music			
2. the film world			
3. migrating to the U.S.A.			
4. playing at temples			
5. getting the Bharat Ratna			
6. the banks of the Ganga			
7. leaving Benaras and Dumraon			

III. Answer each of these questions in a short paragraph (30-40 words)

1. Why did Aurangzeb ban the playing of the *pungi*?
2. How is a *shehnai* different from a *pungi*?
3. Where was the *shehnai* played traditionally? How did Bismillah Khan change this?
4. When and how did Bismillah Khan get his big break?

5. Where did Bismillah Khan play the shehnai on 15th August 1947? Was the event historic?
6. Why did Bismillah Khan refuse to start a shehnai school in the US?
7. Find at least two instances in the text which tells you that Bismillah Khan loves India and Banaras.

5. Grammar

I. Look at these sentences

- Evelyn was determined to *live a normal life*.
- Evelyn managed to *conceal her growing deafness from friends and teachers*.

The italicised parts answer the question "What was Evelyn determined to do?" and "What did Evelyn manage to do?" They begin with a to-verb (*to live, to conceal*).

Click on the link below to understand what verbs are.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0T9xMqvjdLk>

Complete the following sentences. Beginning with a to-verb, try to answer the questions in brackets.

1. The school sports team hopes _____. (What does it hope to do?)
2. We all want _____. (What do we all want to do?)
3. They advised the hearing-impaired child's mother _____. (What did they advise her to do?)
4. The authorities permitted us _____. (What did the authorities permit us to do?)
5. A musician decided _____. (What did the musician decide to do?)

II. From the text on Bismillah Khan find the words and phrases that match these definitions and write them down. The number of the paragraph where you will find the words and phrases have been given in brackets.

1. The home of royal people (1) _____
2. The state of being alone (5) _____
3. A part which is absolutely necessary (2) _____
4. To do something not done before (5) _____
5. Without much effort (13) _____
6. Quickly and in large quantities (9) _____

III. Tick the right answer.

1. When something is revived, it (remains dead/ lives again).
2. When a government bans something it wants it (stopped/ started).
3. When something is considered auspicious, (welcome it/ avoid it).
4. When we take to something, we find it (boring/ interesting).
5. When you appreciate something, you find it (good and useful/ of no use).
6. When you replicate something, you do it (for the first time/ for the second time).
7. When we come to terms with something, it is (still upsetting/ no longer upsetting).

IV. Dictionary work

- The sound of the shehnai is *auspicious*.
- The *auspicious* sound of the shehnai is usually heard at marriages.

The adjective *auspicious* can occur after the verb *be* as in the first sentence, or before a noun as in the second. But there are some adjectives which can be used after the verb *be* and not before a noun. For example:

- Ustad Faiyaz Khan was *overjoyed*
- We cannot say: *the *overjoyed man*.

Look at these entries from the *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (2005).

elder adj., noun
adjective 1 [**only before noun**] (of people, especially two members of the same family) older: my elder brother • his elder sister 2 (*the elder*) used without a noun immediately after it to show who is the older of two people: the elder of their two sons 3 (*the elder*) (formal) used before or after sb's name to show that they are the older of two people who have the same name: the elder Pitt • Pitt, the elder.

awake adj., verb
adjective [**not before noun**] not asleep (especially immediately before or after sleeping): to be half/fully awake; to be wide awake. I was still awake when he came to bed.

Consult your dictionary and complete the following table. The first one has been done for you.

The link to the dictionary is given below.

<https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/english/>

adjective	only before noun	not before noun	both before and after the verb be
indispensable			✓
impressed			
afraid			
outdoor			
paternal			
countless			
priceless			

Use these words in phrases or sentences of your own.

6. Writing

I. Note making

Format for Note Making

Heading>Title

1. Sub-heading
 - 1.1. Point
 - 1.2. Point
2. Sub -heading
 - 2.1. Point
 - 2.2. Point
 - 2.2.1.Sub-point
 - 2.2.2.Sub-point
3. Sub-heading
 - 3.1. Point
 - 3.2. Point
 - 3.3. Point
 - 3.3.1.Sub-point
 - 3.3.2.Sub point

Key – Abbreviations

1. **Imagine the famous singer Kishori Amonkar is going to visit your school. You have been asked to introduce her to the audience before her performance. How would you introduce her?**

1. **Here is some information about Kishori Amonkar you can find on the Internet. Read the passage and make notes of the main points about:**

- her parentage
- the school of music she belongs to
- her achievements
- her inspiration
- awards

Padma Bhushan Kishori Amonkar, widely considered the finest female vocalist of her generation, was born in 1931, daughter of another great artist, Smt. Mogubai Kurdikar. In her early years she absorbed the approach and repertoire of her distinguished mother's teacher Ustad Alladiya Khan. As her own style developed, however, she moved away from Alladiya Khan's 'Jaipur- Atrauli gharana' style in some

respects, and as a mature artist her approach is usually regarded as an individual, if not unique, variant of the Jaipur model.

Kishori Amonkar is a thinker, besotted by what she calls the mysterious world of her *raagas*. She dissects them with the precision of a perfectionist, almost like a scientist, until the most subtle of shades and emotions emerge and re-emerge.

She is very much inspired by the teachings of the ancient Vedic sages, written at a time when vocal music was highly devotional in character. This soul searching quality of her music, coupled with a very intellectual approach to *raaga* performance has gained her quite a following in India and has helped to revive the study of *khayal*.

Significant awards bestowed on this artist include the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1985), the Padma Bhushan (1987), and the highly coveted Sangeet Samratdhini Award (considered one of the most prestigious awards in Indian Classical Music) in 1997.

2. Use your notes on Kishori Amonkar to introduce her to an imaginary audience. You may use one of the following phrases to introduce a guest:

2. Practice

Read the passage carefully and answer the questions given below.

There are many different kinds of musical instruments. They are divided into three main classes according to the way they are played. For example, some instruments are played by blowing air into them. These are called wind instruments. In some of these the air is made to vibrate inside a wooden tube and these are said to be of the wood wind family. The examples of this family are the flute, the clarinet and the bassoon. Other instruments are made of brass: the trumpet and the horn are the examples. There are also various other wind instruments such as the mouth organ and the bagpipes.

Some instruments are played by banging or striking them. One obvious example is the drum, of which there are various kinds. Instruments like this are called percussion instruments.

The last big group of instruments are the ones which have strings. There are two main kinds of stringed instruments those in which the music is made by plucking the strings and those where the player draws a bow across the strings. Examples of the former are the harp and the guitar and that of the latter are the violin and the cello.

1. On the basis of your reading of the above passage, make notes on it, in points only, using headings and sub-headings. Also use recognizable abbreviations, wherever necessary (minimum four). Supply an appropriate title to it.
 2. Write a summary of the above passage in about 80 words.
- II. Paragraph Writing

"If you work hard and know where you are going you will get there" says Evelyn Glennie.

You have now read about two musicians, Evelyn Glennie and Ustaad Bismillah Khan. Do you think they both worked hard? Where did they want to 'go'?

Answer these questions in one paragraph for each of the two.