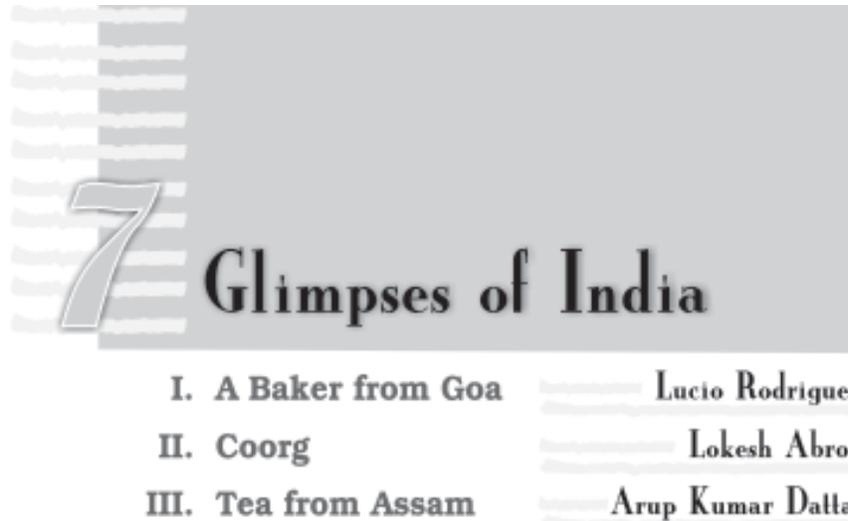


talk
to
me!

LET'S TALK EMPOWERMENT. LET'S TALK ENGLISH

First Flight



I

A Baker from Goa

1. Watch and listen to the three stories

Click on the link below to watch a video of the three stories in this lesson being read. Note the pronunciations of the words and read along using the subtitles.

[\(88\) Glimpses of India - YouTube](#)

2. Background

The Portuguese colonized India in 1510, conquering many parts of the Western coast and establishing several colonies in the East. However, by the end of the 19th century, Portuguese colonies in India were limited to Goa, Daman, Diu, Dadra, Nagar Haveli and Anjediva Island.

Many Goans resented Portuguese rule. There were 14 unsuccessful revolts against Portuguese rule. The fight for freedom gathered momentum in the 1940s as India came closer to independence from British rule.

It was finally freed from Portuguese rule on 19 December 1961, more than four centuries after it was colonised. The Indian Army invaded and conquered Goa after a 36 hour battle. The region became a union territory of Goa, Daman and Diu. In 1987, Goa was granted statehood by the Indian Government.

Portuguese are Christians. They converted many of the Hindus in Goa to Christianity. Today, 25 percent of the population in Goa is Christian. That is why Christmas is such an important festival there.

Though the majority of Goans wanted freedom from Portuguese rule, there were some aspects of the Portuguese culture that they enjoyed. This essay deals with the nostalgia for some of the good old times.

The places described in this lesson – Goa, Coorg and Assam, are marked on the map below to show their location.



3. Summary

This short account/ essay has been written by famous Konkani folklore essayist Lucio Rodrigues (1916-1973). The essay has a nostalgic tone to it, and highlights the importance of a traditional Goan village baker even today. The village elders fondly remember the famous loaves of bread made by bakers during the Portuguese days.

The author remembers his childhood days when the baker used to announce his arrival with a jingle and a jhang jhang thud of bamboo. He would bring with him loaves of bread, bread bangles and special sweet bread. Any marriage or party, a daughter's engagement or a festival, especially Christmas, was incomplete without special bread from the baker. This practice is followed even today.

Bakers in Goa, known as pader, are respected by society. They used to wear a unique traditional dress known as Kabai in the olden days. Later, during the author's childhood, they wore a shirt and short length trousers. Baking was considered a very profitable profession; bakers and their families always looked happy and prosperous.

To see the traditional Goan baker and his bakery click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ODZMNPjT7iI>

To catch a glimpse of Christmas in Goa, click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=87hoE8d5Pal>

4. Vocabulary

1. **Destinations** – the places where someone is going or where something is being sent or taken
Some of the tourist **destinations** we visited in Rajasthan were Jaipur, Jodhpur and Udaipur.

2. **Influences** – the power to have an effect on people or things, or persons or things that are able to change the way in which others think or behave
We can see the French **influences** in Pondicherry, on their language and architecture.
3. **Pen-portrait** – a written description of a person, a portrait made by pen
The **pen-portrait** of many writers are available in bookshops.
The artist by the roadside agreed to do a **pen- portrait** of my sister.
4. **Traditional** – long established, conservative, conventional
The **traditional** arts and crafts of India are displayed at the museum.
5. **Reminiscing nostalgically** – thinking fondly of the past
Reminiscing nostalgically my grandfather recounted stories of his childhood.
6. **Moulders** – persons who shape something into a particular form
The **moulders** were shaping the dough into round shapes for making buns.
7. **Age-old** – having existed for a long time
The **age-old** method of ripening fruit is still practiced in villages.
8. **Time-tested** – methods proven over a long period of time, well-tried
The **time tested** methods of farmers are still used today.
9. **Furnace** – a container heated to a high temperature to melt or burn substances
Please be very careful if you go near the **furnace**; it is still very hot.
10. **Extinguished** – to put out a fire or a light, put an end to, smother
The fire department **extinguished** the fire after almost four hours.
11. **Thud** – thump, bang, move, fall, or strike something with a dull, heavy sound
The constant **thud** of the hammer was hurting my head.
She fell with a **thud** to the floor.

12. **Jingle** – a light ringing sound made by metallic objects like bells, tinkle
The **jingle** of bells as the goats moved in the meadow, was very pleasant.
13. **Heralding** – announcing
The dark clouds and thunder are **heralding** the arrival of the monsoons.
14. **Profession** – any type of work that needs special training or a particular skill, often one that is respected because it involves a high level of education
He was a lawyer by **profession**.
15. **Companion** – a person you spend a lot of time with, often because you are friends, or because you are travelling together
My **companion** on my travels through Kerala was my brother, Sunil.
16. **Supported** – helped, assisted, to bear all or part of weight
The firm **supported** the efforts of its employees to help the slum dwellers.
The load-bearing beams **supported** the roof.
17. **Vertical** – upright, at right angles to a horizontal plane
The final test for the mountain climber was to climb up a **vertical** wall.
18. **Rebuke** – an expression of disapproval, scolding
The teacher will **rebuke** anyone who is late for class.
19. **Parapet** – a low wall along the edge of a roof
The **parapet** of the old building is in need of repair.
20. **Typical** – representative, classic
It is **typical** of Ramesh to leave his homework incomplete.
21. **Fragrance** – scent
The **fragrance** of the spring flowers is enchanting.

22. **Plucking** – pulling something, especially with a sudden movement, in order to remove it or detach it
The little children climbed the trees and were **plucking** all the ripe mangoes.
23. **Meaningless** – having no meaning; having no importance or value
This is a **meaningless** sentence.
It is **meaningless** to plant tree saplings, if we don't take care of them later.
24. **Charm** – a special quality that makes a person or thing attractive; an object or saying that is believed to bring good luck
I could never resist the **charms** of the city of Kolkata.
She always wears this ring as a good luck **charm**.
25. **Essential** – absolutely necessary, extremely important
It is **essential** that children are vaccinated against measles.
26. **Peculiar** – unusual and strange, sometimes in an unpleasant way; belonging to, relating to, or found in only particular people or things
A very **peculiar** smell was coming out of the kitchen.
This type of house is **peculiar** to the hilly regions of the country.
27. **Profitable** – making or likely to make a profit; in a way that produces or is likely to produce an advantage
He runs a very **profitable** business supplying food to the offices in this area.
I spent a very **profitable** afternoon at the library doing research for my project.
28. **Starved** – caused someone to become very weak or die because there was not enough food to eat
Millions of people **starved** and died during the Bengal famine of 1943.
29. **Prosperous** – rich and successful
He was a **prosperous** businessman who had made his fortune selling equipment to the army during the war.
30. **Plump physique** – pleasantly fat body
The shop keeper's **plump physique** was often the butt of jokes.

31. **Open testimony** – public statement about a character or quality
The good condition of the roads in the neighbourhood, is **open testimony** of the work done by the councilor.
32. **Physical appearance** – the way the body looks to other people
Her **physical appearance** was very smart and well-dressed.
33. **Leavened** – to add a substance like yeast to bread or dough to make it increase in size, ferment, rise
The **leavened** dough was placed in the oven to make bread.
34. **Brochure** – a small booklet with information about something
The company has designed a **brochure** featuring all the car models.
35. **Factual** – based on actual facts
The police were satisfied with his **factual** account of the accident.

5. Questions

I. Activity

Discuss in class

1. *What images — of people and of places — come to your mind, when you think of our country?*
2. *What parts of India have you lived in, or visited? Can you name some popular tourist destinations?*
3. *You may know that apart from the British, the Dutch and the French, the Portuguese have also played a part in the history of our country. Can you say which parts of India show French and Portuguese influences?*
4. *Can you say which parts of India grow (i) tea, (ii) coffee?*

II. Oral Comprehension Check

1. What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?
2. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?
3. What is the baker called?
4. When would the baker come everyday? Why did the children run to meet him?
5. Match the following. What is a must
 - (i) as marriage gifts? – cake and bolinhas
 - (ii) for a party or a feast? – sweet bread called bol
 - (iii) for a daughter's engagement? – bread
 - (iv) for Christmas? – sandwiches
6. What did the bakers wear: (i) in the Portuguese days? (ii) when the author was young?
7. Who invites the comment — “he is dressed like a pader”? Why?
8. Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?
9. What does a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ mean?

III. Thinking About The Text

1. Which of these statements are correct?
 - (i) The pader was an important person in the village in old times.
 - (ii) *Paders* still exist in Goan villages.
 - (iii) The *paders* went away with the Portuguese.
 - (iv) The *paders* continue to wear a single-piece long frock.
 - (v) Bread and cakes were an integral part of Goan life in the old days.

- (vi) Traditional bread-baking is still a very profitable business.
- (vii) *Paders and* their families starve in the present times.
2. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?
3. Tick the right answer. What is the tone of the author when he says the following?
- (i) The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo can still be heard in some places. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- (ii) Maybe the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession. (nostalgic, hopeful, sad)
- (iii) I still recall the typical fragrance of those loaves. (nostalgic, hopeful, naughty)
- (iv) The tiger never brushed his teeth. Hot tea could wash and clean up everything so nicely, after all. (naughty, angry, funny)
- (v) Cakes and *bolinhas* are a must for Christmas as well as other festivals. (sad, hopeful, matter-of-fact)
- (vi) The baker and his family never starved. They always looked happy and prosperous. (matter-of-fact, hopeful, sad)

6. Writing

- I. In this extract, the author talks about traditional bread-baking during his childhood days. Complete the following table with the help of the clues on the left. Then write a paragraph about the author's childhood days.

<i>Clues</i>	<i>Author's childhood days</i>
the way bread was baked	
the way the <i>pader</i> sold bread	
what the <i>pader</i> wore	
when the <i>pader</i> was paid	
how the <i>pader</i> looked	

- II. 1. Compare the piece from the text (on the left below) with the other piece on Goan bakers (on the right). What makes the two texts so different? Are the facts the same? Do both writers give you a picture of the baker?

Our elders are often heard reminiscing nostalgically about those good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese and their famous loaves of bread. Those eaters of loaves might have vanished but the makers are still there. We still have amongst us the mixers, the moulders and those who bake the loaves. Those age-old, time-tested furnaces still exist. The fire in the furnaces had not yet been extinguished. The thud and the jingle of the traditional baker's bamboo, heralding his arrival in the morning, can still be heard in some places. May be the father is not alive but the son still carries on the family profession.

After Goa's liberation, people used to say nostalgically that the Portuguese bread vanished with the paders. But the paders *have* managed to survive because they have perfected the art of door-to-door delivery service. The *paders* pick up the knowledge of bread-making from traditions in the family. The **leavened**, oven-baked bread is a gift of the Portuguese to India.

[Adapted from Nandakumar Kamat's 'The Unsung Lives of Goan Padars']

2. Now find a travel **brochure** about a place you have visited. Look at the description in the brochure. Then write your own account, adding details from your own experience, to give the reader a picture of the place, rather than an impersonal, **factual** description.

7. Group Discussion

1. In groups, collect information on how bakeries bake bread now and how the process has changed over time.
2. There are a number of craft-based professions which are dying out. Pick one of the crafts below. Make a group presentation to the class about the skills required, and the possible reasons for the decline of the craft. Can you think of ways to revive these crafts?
 - (i) Pottery
 - (ii) Batik work
 - (iii) *Dhurri* (rug) weaving
 - (iv) Embroidery
 - (v) Carpentry
 - (vi) Bamboo weaving
 - (vii) Making jute products
 - (viii) Handloom

II Coorg

1. Summary

Coorg or Kodagu is a heavenly place that lies midway between Mysore and Mangalore. It is the smallest district in Karnataka and is certainly God's abode as it has evergreen forests, spices and coffee plantations. The best season here is from September to March and thus many tourists come to visit during this period. The air carries the aroma of coffee.

There's a famous story about the Greek descent of the Coorg people. A part of King Alexander's invading army moved south to Coorg as it was not possible for them to return to Greece. They settled here, and married the locals. There are remains of their culture in martial traditions, and marriage and religious rites, which are very different from Hindu mainstream customs. The theory of Arab origin comes from the fact that the people of Coorg wear Kuppia, a long black coat similar to the kuffia that Arabs wear.

The people of Coorg are known for their hospitality and recount many tales of bravery. The Coorg Regiment of the Indian Army is one of the most decorated regiments. Also, our first army chief, General Cariappa hails from Coorg. The Kodavus, or people from Coorg, are the only people in India who have permission to carry firearms without a license.

A variety of wildlife like the Mahaseer- a large fresh water fish, kingfishers, squirrels, langurs and elephants can be seen here. Coorg is also well-known for high energy adventures like river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock-climbing etc. The Brahmagiri hills give the climber an awe-inspiring view of Coorg. A walk across the rope bridge leads to the sixty-four acre island of Nisargadhama.

Bylakuppe in Coorg, has India's largest settlement of Tibetans. Buddhist monks can be seen here dressed in red, ochre and yellow robes.

Click on the link below to see a travel video on Coorg.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdpJVG1ZMw>

2. Vocabulary

1. **Rainforests** – dense forests rich in biodiversity, in a tropical area that receives heavy rain
The **rainforests** in Andaman and Nicobar Islands are rich in biodiversity.
2. **Spices** – plant based substances, used to give a special flavour to food
My grandmother uses special **spices** to make this biryani.
3. **Midway** – half the distance between two places; in the middle of a process or period of time
My village is **midway** between Delhi and Jaipur.
She stopped working **midway** through the year.
4. **Coastal** – near or belonging to the coast or shore of the sea
The coastal waters here are full of fish.
5. **Drifted from** – being carried along gently by air
The leaves **drifted from** the tree gently to the ground.
6. **Rolling hills** – a chain of low hills
The hill station of Mahabaleshwar is situated among the **rolling hills** of the Western Ghats in Maharashtra.
7. **Inhabited** – lived in or occupied
The forest was **inhabited** by many different species of animals.
8. **Martial** – having to do with war
Training in the traditional **martial** arts of Kerala is very popular even today.
9. **Creatures** – any large or small living thing that can move independently
Blue whales are the largest living **creatures** ever to have lived.
10. **Plantation** – estates on which crops such as coffee, tea, sugar, etc. are grown
We plan to visit a coffee **plantation** during our winter holidays.
11. **Evergreen** – plants or trees which stay green throughout the year
The garden has a border of **evergreen** bushes.

12. **Commences** – starts, begins
The new session of school **commences** in the first week of July.
13. **Showers** – a brief and usually light fall of rain
After a hot summer, the **showers** were very welcome.
14. **For good measure** – in addition to what has been said or done, besides, as well
She added a handful of sweets to the gift packet **for good measure**.
15. **Invigorating** – making one feel strong, healthy and full of energy
I could walk for several miles in the **invigorating** mountain air.
16. **Tucked** – to put or fold, or push something into place to make it comfortable
She **tucked** the blanket around the baby.
17. **Canopies** – roof like coverings for shelter
During the annual school festival, colourful **canopies** are erected for different stalls.
18. **Prime** – here, best
She always buys **prime** quality food items.
19. **Fiercely** – in a powerful and intense manner
The people of Coorg are a **fiercely** proud race.
20. **Independent** – not influenced or controlled in any way by other people, events, or things
My grandmother is very **independent** - she lives alone and does all her work herself.
21. **Greek** – belonging to or relating to Greece, its people, or its language
The ancient **Greek** civilisation has had a great impact on Western ideas and ways of living.
22. **Arabic** – relating to Arabia, a part of Western Asia; twenty two countries are part of the Arab league.
The **Arabic** language is spoken by about 440 million people; it is the fifth most commonly spoken language in the world.

23. **Descent** – drop, fall, sinking, parentage, of ancestors
His **descent** into failure began soon after the death of his father.
The nation's **descent** into chaos during the pandemic is a nightmare.
She traces her **descent** to the Mewar royal family of Rajasthan.
24. **Alexander** – Also known as Alexander the Great; lived from 356 B.C. to 323 B.C.; was the king of the ancient Greek kingdom of Macedonia; by the age of thirty, had conquered most of West Asia and North-east Africa and his large empire stretched from Greece to north-western India; was undefeated in battle and turned back from north-western India at the demand of his home-sick troops; died in Babylon at the young age of thirty three years
Alexander founded some twenty cities, named after him, of which Alexandria in Egypt is the most famous
25. **Impractical** – not effective or reasonable, or (of people) not able to provide effective or simple solutions
It is **impractical** to have all the students using the laboratory at the same time.
26. **Culture** – the way of life, especially the general customs and beliefs, of a particular group of people at a particular time
She went to the library to read about Greek history and **culture**.
27. **Apparent** – able to be seen or understood; seeming to exist or be true
Her unhappiness was **apparent** to everyone at home.
There are one or two **apparent** mistakes in the report.
28. **Traditions** – beliefs, principles, or ways of acting that people in a particular society or group have continued to follow for a long time
Dussehra is celebrated according to age-old **traditions** in our village.
29. **Rites** – sets of fixed words and actions, often said and done as part of a religious ceremony
The Jewish wedding and funeral **rites** are quite different from the Christian **rites**.

30. **Distinct** – separate, different in nature from something else of a similar type, clearly noticeable
There is a **distinct** improvement in his marks ever since he joined the coaching classes.
The **distinct** smell of petroleum comes from the nearby rubber factory.
31. **Mainstream** – a tradition which most people follow
The **mainstream** Bollywood cinema does not support small budget movies.
32. **Origin** – the beginning or cause of something
His unhappy childhood is the **origin** of all his problems with his friends and colleagues.
33. **Draws support** – gives help to show something to be true
The big bang theory of the origin of the universe **draws support** from the fact that all galaxies are moving away from us, in all directions, at great speed.
34. **Embroidered** – decorated cloth or clothing with patterns or pictures consisting of stitches that are sewn directly onto the material
She was wearing a beautifully **embroidered** blouse.
35. **Kurds** – members of a group of Western Asian people who come from a region between the Mediterranean, the Black Sea, and the Caspian Sea
The **Kurds** are a community that lives today in south-eastern Turkey, north-eastern Syria, northern Iraq, north-western Iran and south-western Armenia.
36. **Hospitality** – welcome, warm reception of guests, friendliness
His **hospitality** and warmth endear him to all.
The **hospitality** sector suffered immense loss during the lockdown.
37. **Recount** – relate, give an account of an event or experience
My grandfather loves to **recount** his experiences during the Kargil war.
38. **Tales of valour** – stories of courage and bravery, usually of war
Lord Ram's **tales of valour** have spread far and wide in India.

39. **Regiment** – a large group of soldiers, or (more generally) any large number of things or people
The soldiers who died on the Indo-Chinese border were from the Bihar **Regiment**.
40. **Most decorated** – maximum number of awards for bravery
The **most decorated** soldiers are cheered for their bravery on every Republic day.
41. **Permitted** – allowed something
We are not **permitted** to take our mobile phones into the examination hall.
42. **Firearms** – guns that can be carried easily
We have to deposit all **firearms** with the police before the elections.
43. **Licence** – an official document that gives you permission to own, do, or use something, usually after you have paid money and/or taken a test
She has passed her driving test and now has a motor driving **licence**.
44. **Freshwater** – living in or containing water that is not salty
Rohu is a very tasty **freshwater** fish.
45. **Abound** – plentiful, abundant, thriving
The Mughal gardens of Rashtrapati Bhavan **abound** with a variety of flowers.
46. **Kingfishers** – small brightly coloured birds with long pointed beaks, that live near rivers and lakes and eat fish
The blue **kingfisher** kept darting over the water looking for fish.



A Kingfisher

47. **Squirrels** – small animals covered in fur with long tails; squirrels climb trees and feed on nuts and seeds
There are many **squirrels** living in the tree outside my bedroom window.



A Squirrel

48. **Langurs** – a type of medium-sized monkey with a long tail that lives in Asia
Langurs are often used in Delhi to scare away other monkeys from public buildings.



A Grey Langur

49. **Partially** – partly, to a limited extent
Our school is **partially** funded by the Government.
50. **Mischief** – behaviour, especially a child's, that is slightly bad but is not intended to cause serious harm or damage
Her granddaughter is a lively child, full of **mischief**.
51. **The splash and the ripple** – a sound when something is thrown in water, and a series of small waves that are created when it hits the water
The splash and the ripple made by the children in the pool hardly disturbed anyone.
52. **Scrubbed** – to clean something with soap and water by rubbing it hard
Before moving into the new house, my mother had all the floors **scrubbed**.
53. **Mahout** – a person who drives, trains and looks after elephants
The **mahout** rewarded the elephant with a bunch of bananas.

54. **Laidback** – relaxed, not in a hurry
The **laidback** life style of villages appeals strongly to me.
55. **Individual** – single person or thing, in contrast to a group or set
Each **individual** is different.
56. **Converts** – to change from one form or system to another, a person who changes his religion
There were many **converts** to Christianity during the British rule.
He will **convert** the small room to an office.
57. **High-energy** – very active
Running is a **high-energy** physical exercise.
58. **Adventure** – an unusual, exciting, and possibly dangerous activity, such as a trip or experience, or the excitement produced by such an activity
Our journey on the Metro was quite an **adventure** – we got lost and landed up at the other end of the city.
59. **Rafting** – travelling on a river on a raft (a floating platform made of planks)
River **rafting** is a very popular water sport.
60. **Canoeing** – travelling on a river on a canoe, a large narrow boat
Salim decided to go **canoeing** down the rapids of the Ganges during the summer break.
61. **Rappelling** – going down a cliff by sliding down a rope
The Mountaineering Institute offers a course in rock climbing and **rappelling**.
62. **Mountain biking** – a sport of riding bicycles off-road, often over rough terrain, using specially designed mountain bikes
Some of the best routes for **mountain biking** are in Munnar in Kerala.
63. **Trails** – rough paths created by something walking or passing over forests or open country
We followed the deer **trail** to reach the river.

64. **Macaques** –a medium-sized monkey from Africa or Asia, with a long face and pouches (spaces) inside its cheeks for holding food
Macaques are found all over India, especially in temples and big cities like Delhi.



A Rhesus macaque

65. **Slender loris** – a type of monkey found in India and Sri Lanka; they spend most of their life in trees, traveling along the top of branches with slow and precise movements
Slender loris are nocturnal animals that feed on insects, reptiles, shoots of plants and fruits.



A Slender loris

66. **Watchful eye** – watch someone carefully or supervise them
While my mother is cooking, she asks me to keep a **watchful eye** on the baby.
67. **Panoramic** – a view of a wide area of land
The **panoramic** view of the coffee estates is the reason for the hotel's popularity.
68. **Misty** – covered with mist, hazy, foggy
In the morning the mountains were **misty** and the air was cold.

69. **Landscape** – a large area of a countryside, scenery, to change the appearance of an area of land
As they climbed higher, the **landscape** changed to hills full of pine trees.
The gardener has been asked to **landscape** the overgrown backyard.
70. **Acre** – a unit for measuring area, equal to 4,047 square metres or 4,840 square yards
He has a ten **acre** farm near Panipat in Haryana.
71. **Running into** – meeting someone when you are not expecting to meet them
She did not want to go to the mall as she was scared of **running into** her sister there.
72. **Settlement** – a place which was uninhabited and where a community has been established, colony, encampment
Today there are still **settlements** of Native Indians in the United States.
73. **Bonus** – an extra amount of money that is given to you as a present or reward for good work. This is in addition to the money you were expecting; a pleasant extra thing
We will buy a new TV with the Diwali **bonus** that my father will get.
I love my school and it is an added **bonus** that is so close to my home.
74. **Ochre** – a yellowish-orange colour, or a substance obtained from earth that is used for giving this colour to paints
The walls of the room were painted ochre.
75. **Robes** – a long, loose piece of clothing worn especially on very formal occasions
The judge entered the court wearing a long black **robe**.
76. **Headquarters** – the main office or centre of control of a company or organization; here it refers to the centre of the district of Coorg
Sushil works at the **headquarters** of a large marketing company.
77. **Gateway** – a place through which you have to go to get to a particular area
Conoor is the **gateway** to the beautiful Nilgiri hills in Tamil Nadu.

78. **Lush** – very green with lots of plants and trees
There was a beautiful view of **lush** green valleys from our hotel room.
79. **Cast a spell** – to use words thought to be magic, especially in order to have an effect on someone; here, have a magical effect
In the fairy story, the old woman **cast a spell** on the prince and he turned into a frog.
80. **Experience** – something that happens to you, or you feel it
Getting my tooth pulled out by the dentist was a very painful **experience**.
81. **Railheads** – places where railway lines end
The closest railhead for Munnar is the Ernakulum Junction railway station in Cochin, Kerala.
82. **Routes** – particular ways or directions between places
The **route** from here to his office passes Nehru Place.
83. **Via** – going through, or stopping at a place on the way to another place
This bus goes to New Delhi Railway Station **via** India Gate.
84. **Frequented** – visited a place often
This expensive restaurant is **frequented** by rich and famous people.

3. Questions

1. **Where is Coorg?**
2. **What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?**
3. **What are some of the things you now know about**
 - (i) **the people of Coorg?**
 - (ii) **the main crop of Coorg?**
 - (iii) **the sports it offers to tourists?**
 - (iv) **the animals you are likely to see in Coorg?**
 - (v) **its distance from Bangalore, and how to get there?**

4. Here are six sentences with some words in italics. Find phrases from the text that have the same meaning. (Look in the paragraphs indicated)

- (i) During monsoons it rains so heavily *that tourists do not visit Coorg*. (para 2)
- (ii) *Some people say that Alexander's army* moved south along the coast and settled there. (para 3)
- (iii) The Coorg people *are always ready to tell* stories of their sons' and fathers' valour. (para 4)
- (iv) *Even people who normally lead an easy and slow life get smitten by* the high-energy adventure sports of Coorg. (para 6)
- (v) The theory of the Arab origin *is supported by* the long coat with embroidered waist-belt they wear. (para 3)
- (vi) Macaques, Malabar squirrels *observe you carefully* from the tree canopy. (para 7)

4. Grammar

Thinking about the Language

Collocations

Certain words 'go together'. Such 'word friends' are called collocations. The collocation of a word is 'the company it keeps'. For example, look at the paired sentences and phrases below. Which is a common collocation, and which one is odd? Strike out the odd sentence or phrase.

- (a) 'How old are you?' (b) a pleasant person
- (c) 'How young are you?' (d) a pleasant pillow

1. Here are some nouns from the text.

culture monks surprise experience weather tradition

Work with a partner and discuss which of the nouns can collocate with which of the adjectives given below. The first one has been done for you.

unique terrible unforgettable serious ancient wide sudden

- (i) culture – unique culture, ancient culture
- (ii) monks – _____
- (iii) surprise – _____
- (iv) experience – _____
- (v) weather – _____
- (vi) tradition _____

2. Complete the following phrases from the text. For each phrase, can you find at least one other word that would fit into the blank?

- (i) tales of _____
- (ii) coastal _____
- (iii) a piece of _____
- (iv) evergreen _____
- (v) _____ plantations
- (vi) _____ bridge
- (vii) wild _____

You may add your own examples to this list.

III

Tea from Assam

1. Summary:

'Tea from Assam' is an interesting story, written by Arup Kumar Dutta, about the origin of tea, its history and significance. The story begins with two friends, Rajvir and Pranjol travelling by train to Assam. On their way, they buy cups of tea from a vendor at a station. While sipping the tea, Rajvir tells Pranjol that people drink over 80 crores cups of tea throughout the world every day.

The train passes through green hills with a sea of tea bushes as far as the eye can see. Rajvir is very excited but Pranjol, who has been brought up on a plantation, does not share his excitement. Rajvir then tells him about the various legends, Indian and Chinese, behind the origin of tea. He tells Pranjol about how a Chinese Emperor discovered tea back in 2700 BC, when some tea leaves fell accidentally into water that was being boiled for him to drink. They gave the water a delicious flavor!

According to an Indian legend, the famous Buddhist Monk, Bodhidharma, cut off his eyelids to avoid sleeping during meditation. Ten tea plants grew out of those eyelids. The leaves of these plants were boiled, and the liquid was drunk. This brew banished sleep! The words 'Chai' and 'Chini' are Chinese words. It was only in the sixteenth century that tea came to Europe.

By now Rajvir and Pranjol had reached Marian junction where they got down and set off for Dhekiabari Tea Estate with Pranjol's parents. On both sides of the road were tea bushes with women plucking newly sprouted tea leaves. Rajvir hoped that he would learn many more things about tea while he was at the plantation.

To learn about the oldest commercial tea estate in India click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4adxhRti3uo>

Click on the link below to learn how tea is processed from tea leaves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=COJMci9hTtw>

Learn about the history of tea in India by clicking on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZONUN2MdrOE>

2. Vocabulary

1. **Youngster** – a young person, usually an older child
I refused to give money to the **youngster**, who was begging, but gave him some food instead.
2. **Vacation** – a time when someone does not go to work or school but is free to do what they want, such as travel or relax; holidays
We are visiting my father's village in Uttarakhand during the summer **vacation**.
3. **Vendor** – a person who sells something, tradesperson
The ice cream **vendor** keeps a variety of ice cream flavours.
4. **High-pitched** – sounds that have a very high pitch, for example screams
The **high-pitched** whistle of the train reaches the far corners of the town.
5. **Sipped** – drank, taking only a very small amount at a time
We sat on the chairs outside the shop and **sipped** our coffee.
6. **Steaming** – very hot and so producing steam
After drinking a **steaming** cup of tea, my headache disappeared.
7. **Compartment** – one of the separate areas inside a container or vehicle, especially a train
We managed to get into a second class **compartment**, but could not find a seat on the train.
8. **Exclaimed** – said or shouted something suddenly because of surprise, fear, pleasure, etc.
Sarita **exclaimed** in fear when she saw the snake lying across the doorway.
9. **Popular** – liked, enjoyed, or supported by many people
Amitabh Bacchan was a very **popular** actor of the 1970s and 1980s.

10. **Buried his nose** – read a book with complete attention
Aslam was very fond of reading and always **buried his nose** in a book.
11. **Detective** – someone whose job is to discover information about crimes and find out who is responsible for them
The police **detective** interviewed all the members of the household after the robbery.
12. **Ardent** – showing strong feelings, specially of liking
I am an ardent fan of Bollywood movies.
I am an **ardent** supporter of the German soccer team.
13. **Scenery** –the general appearance of the natural environment, especially when it is beautiful
We all admired the beautiful **scenery** from the top of the hill.
14. **Paddy** – uncut rice, or rice in the husk; small, level, flooded fields used to grow rice in southern and eastern Asia
The village was surrounded by **paddy** fields on all sides.



A Paddy field

15. **Bushes** – plants with many small branches growing either directly from the ground or from a hard stem, giving the plant a rounded shape
The rose **bushes** were covered with red and white roses.



A Tea bush

16. **Densely** – thickly; parts that are so close together it is difficult to see or go through; containing a lot of matter in a small space
We found it difficult to find our way in the **densely** wooded forest.
Delhi is a **densely** populated city.
17. **Stretched** – spread over a large area or distance; went as far as, or past the usual limit of something; caused something to reach as far as possible, in a particular direction
A dark cloud of dense smoke **stretched** over the town.
That story really **stretched** our imagination to its limit.
Before running the race, all the athletes **stretched** their muscles by doing some warm-up exercises.
18. **Dwarfing** – cause to seem small in comparison
The huge pine trees are **dwarfing** the other vegetation on the mountains.
19. **Sturdy** – physically strong and solid or thick, and therefore unlikely to break or be hurt
You can stand up on this chair as it is quite **sturdy**.
20. **Orderly** – well-arranged or organized
She arranged the books in an **orderly** way on the shelves of the cupboard.
21. **Figures** – shapes of human bodies, or persons; numbers
In the distance we could make out some **figures** running away from the house.
My boss sent out a memo with the latest sales **figures**.
22. **Billowing** – filling with air and moving in the wind
The clothes, hanging outside to dry, were **billowing** in the wind.
23. **Excitement** – having strong feelings of happiness and enthusiasm
There was great **excitement** among the students when they heard that a famous film actor was coming to their school.

24. **Concentration** – a large number or amount of something in the same place; the ability to think carefully about something you are doing and nothing else
There is a heavy **concentration** of troops on the border.
She continued studying with total **concentration** even though her parents were watching TV in the same room.
25. **Lifetime** – the period of time during which someone lives or something exists
A watch of this quality should last a **lifetime**.
26. **Discovered** – found information, a place, or an object, especially for the first time
Christopher Columbus **discovered** America in 1492.
27. **Legends** – a very old story that may or may not be true
The **legends** about Hindu gods can fill many pages.
28. **Emperor** – a male ruler of an empire or a large kingdom
Akbar was the **emperor** of India from 1556 to 1605.
29. **Twigs** – very small thin branches that grow out from a main branch of a tree or bush
They gathered some **twigs** lying on the ground and made a fire to warm themselves.
30. **Delicious** – having a very pleasant taste or smell
The food at the new restaurant was **delicious**.
31. **Flavour** – how food or drink tastes, or a particular taste itself
There is a strong **flavour** of garlic in this soup.
32. **Scoffed** – laughed and talked about a person or idea in a way that showed that you thought they are stupid or silly
Fifty years ago people would have **scoffed** at the idea of video telephone calls.
33. **Ascetic** – avoiding physical pleasures and living a simple life, often for religious reasons
The **ascetic** monk begs for his food once a day.

34. **Meditations** – the acts of giving your attention to only one thing, either as religious activities or as ways of becoming calm and relaxed
I have not had time to do my daily **meditations** for several weeks.
35. **Banished** – send someone away from a country or place as an official punishment, exiled, expelled
After Ramesh was caught stealing, he was promptly **banished** from the office.
36. **Beverage** – a drink of any type
I cannot offer you an alcoholic **beverage** as you are under age.
All airlines do not offer food and **beverage** services.
37. **Clattered** – to make or cause something to make a series of short and loud repeated sounds
He kicked the empty can and it **clattered** down the street.
38. **Junction** – a place where things, especially roads or railways meet
He slowly drove through the **junction** looking out for cars coming from every direction.
39. **Luggage** – the bags, suitcases, etc. that contain your things and that you take with you when you are travelling
We loaded all the **luggage** in the boot of the car and set out on our journey.
40. **Veered** – change direction suddenly
Suddenly, the bike **veered** off the road and crashed into a tree.
41. **Cattle-bridge** – a bridge built over a ditch, made up of metal bars that allow vehicles and people to cross, but not cattle
Our truck rattled over the **cattle-bridge** and entered the compound of the bungalow.



A Cattle-bridge

42. **Estate** – a large area of land in the country that is owned by a family or a company and is often used for growing crops or raising animals; property
Prabha's father worked in a large tea **estate** near Darjeeling in West Bengal.
Krishna willed his entire **estate** to his eldest son.
43. **Gravel-road** – a road made of small, rounded stones, often mixed with sand
A white **gravel-road** led from the main gate to the front door of the house.



A Gravel-road

44. **Pruned** –Trim a tree or bush; shear; cut back
The tree was **pruned** before winter to let the sun into the house.
Due to the severe recession, the office staff has been **pruned** to half.
45. **Aprons** – pieces of clothing that you wear over the front of other clothes to protect your clean clothes, worn while you are doing something that could dirty your clothes, for example, cooking or cleaning
All the cooks in the restaurant kitchen were wearing **aprons** and caps over their heads.



An Apron

46. **Plucking** – removing, picking, extracting
During the fruiting season, we employ students at our farm for **plucking** apples.
47. **Sprouted** – put out shoots, grow, develop
Thousands of weeds **sprouted** in the flower beds during spring.
48. **Tractor** – a motor vehicle with large back wheels and thick tyres, used on farms for pulling machinery
The farmer was ploughing his field using a **tractor**.
49. **Trailer** – a cart or box on wheels that is pulled by a vehicle such as a car or tractor and is used for taking things from one place to another
They all travelled out of their village in the **trailer** pulled by a tractor.



A Tractor-trailer

50. **Second flush** – is used to describe tea leaves which are harvested in June
A true tea lover knows the difference between the first flush and the **second flush** tea.
51. **Yields** – produces or supplies
The black soil of the Deccan plateau **yields** the best cotton.
52. **Admitted** – agreed that something is true; allowed someone to enter a place
He **admitted** that he had made a mistake while adding up the marks on the answer paper.
He was **admitted** to the hospital with high fever.

3. Grammar

Thinking about Language

- I. 1. Look at these words – *upkeep, downpour, undergo, Dropout, walk-in*. They are built up from a verb (*keep, pour, go, drop, walk*) and an adverb or a particle (*up, down, under, out, in*).

Use these words appropriately in the sentences below. You may consult a dictionary.

- (i) A heavy _____ has been forecast due to low pressure in the Bay of Bengal.
- (ii) Rakesh will _____ major surgery tomorrow morning.
- (iii) My brother is responsible for the _____ of our family property.
- (iv) The _____ rate for this accountancy course is very high.
- (v) She went to the Enterprise Company to attend a _____ interview.

2. Now fill in the blanks in the sentences given below by combining the verb given in brackets with one of the words from the box as appropriate.

over by through out up down

- (i) The Army attempted unsuccessfully to _____ the Government. (throw)
- (ii) Scientists are on the brink of a major _____ in cancer research. (break)
- (iii) The State Government plans to build a _____ for Bhubaneswar to speed up traffic on the main highway. (pass)
- (iv) Gautama's _____ on life changed when he realised that the world is full of sorrow. (look)
- (v) Rakesh seemed unusually _____ after the game. (cast)

II. Notice how these *-ing and -ed adjectives* are used.

- (a) Chess is an interesting *game*. I am very *interested* in chess.
- (b) Going trekking in the Himalayas this summer is an *exciting* idea. We are very *excited* about the trek.
- (c) Are all your school books this *boring*? He was *bored* as he had no friends there.

The *-ing* adjectives show the *qualities* that chess, trekking, or these books have – they *cause* interest, excitement, or boredom in you. The *-ed / -en* adjectives show your mental state, or your physical state – how you feel in response to ideas, events or things.

1. Think of suitable *-ing* or *-ed* adjectives to answer the following questions. You may also use words from those given above.

How would you describe

- (i) a good detective serial on television? _____
- (ii) a debate on your favourite topic 'Homework Should Be Banned'? _____
- (iii) how you feel when you stay indoors due to incessant rain? _____
- (iv) how you feel when you open a present? _____
- (v) how you feel when you watch your favourite programme on television? _____
- (vi) the look on your mother's face as you waited in a queue? _____
- (vii) how you feel when tracking a tiger in a tiger reserve forest? _____
- (viii) the story you have recently read, or a film you have seen? _____

2. Now use the adjectives in the exercise above, as appropriate, to write a paragraph about Coorg.

4. Speaking and Writing

1. Read the following passage about tea.

India and tea are so intertwined together that life without the brew is unimaginable. Tea entered our life only in the mid-nineteenth century when the British started plantations in Assam and Darjeeling! In the beginning though, Indians shunned the drink as they thought it was a poison that led to umpteen diseases. Ironically, tea colonised Britain where it became a part of their social diary and also led to the establishment of numerous tea houses.

Today, scientific research across the world has attempted to establish the beneficial qualities of tea — a fact the Japanese and the Chinese knew anyway from ancient times, attributing to it numerous medicinal properties.

[Source– 'History– Tea Anytime' by Ranjit Biswas from Literary Review, The Hindu, 1 October 2006]

Collect information about tea, e.g., its evolution as a drink, its beneficial qualities. You can consult an encyclopedia or visit Internet websites. Then form groups of five and play the following roles – Imagine a meeting of a tea planter, a sales agent, a tea lover (consumer), a physician and a tea-shop owner. Each person in the group has to put forward his/her views about tea. You may use the following words and phrases.

- I feel ...
- I disagree with you ...
- I would like you to know ...
- It is my feeling ...
- May I know why you ...
- It is important to know ...
- I think that tea ...
- I agree with ...
- I suggest ...
- I am afraid ...

2. You are the sales executive of a famous tea company and you have been asked to draft an advertisement for the product. Draft the advertisement using the information you collected for the role

play. You can draw pictures or add photographs and make your advertisement colourful



In This Lesson

WHAT WE HAVE DONE

Given a picture of three different regions of India, giving an idea of how varied and charming and beautiful our country is.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Get your students to arrange an exhibition of photographs of different places in India — good sources are travel articles in Sunday newspapers, or in travel magazines, or in brochures available at travel agents. Ask students to bring in two or three pictures each, accompanied by a short, neatly hand-written write-up on the place shown in the pictures. Arrange them on your classroom walls. Let the students study them. They can then discuss, and later vote on the place they would most like to see.