

## Unit 10

# A World Without Books

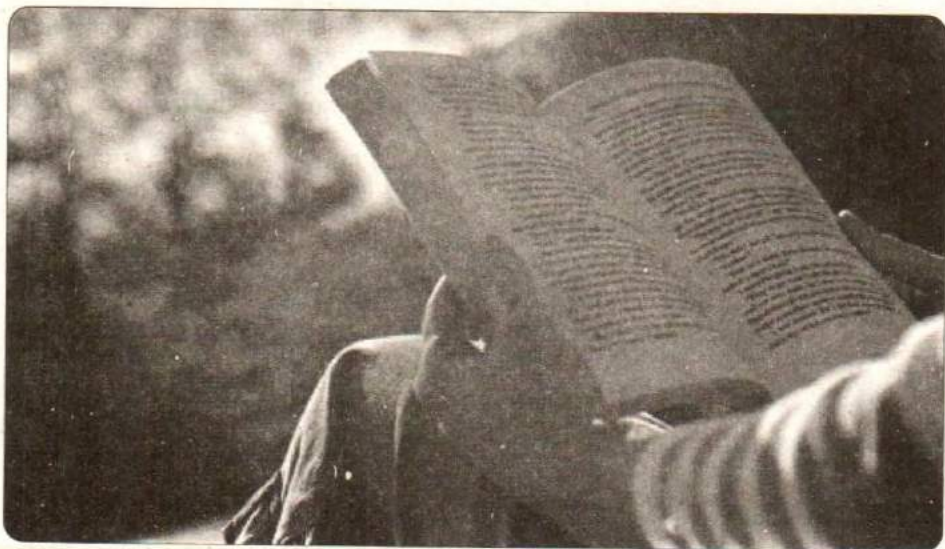
### Learning Outcomes

After completing this unit students will:

- deduce the meanings of unfamiliar words and phrases from the context
- identify and demonstrate the use of relative pronouns
- support the topic of oral communication skills with effective relevant information
- structure ideas and arguments in a coherent logical fashion

### Pre-reading

- ◆ Which books have you read in your childhood?
- ◆ Which is your favourite book? Why?
- ◆ How is book reading a good habit?



### For the Teacher:

Use pre-reading activity to help students predict the content of the text from the title, picture and by asking questions about the importance of reading books.

An Irish novelist Colm Toibin once recounted a story about (1) observing a Cantonese man sitting on a Kowloon footpath reading a book. The man's face was stern with concentration, and his finger tracing the line being read. At times the man's expression would be disturbed in frustration at his progress. Finally, the reader looked up at the sky, while his face was beaming. It doesn't matter whether it was because of a sudden joy with the act of reading, or revelation from what was written, or delight at how the story resolved. The point is that he was in possession of something deliciously private – a connection between him and the writer, between the real world and the world described upon the pages.


Have you ever experienced the same feelings while reading a book?

There is a frequently asked question; What would the world be like (2) without books? The very question is absurd and depressing. It is always said that the latest technology signals the demise of the book. Decades ago, it was thought that the radio would replace books.

Can modern technology take the place of books?

This fear has persisted throughout with the inventions of television and Internet. But scenes like that of Cantonese man reading the book negate the notion that modern advances pose a threat to reading. Books are themselves a form of technology that is spread over the pages and makes us delve into the complexities of life.

Literature is the story of humans. It is the record of who we are, (3) where we come from and where we are going. Books make us travel at large. During our journey, we are connected with humanity. We identify ourselves with the characters we meet and learn whether we love, loathe, fear or flatter. They help us comprehend our faults and aspirations. They

**For the Teacher:**

Share with students the advantages of reading as it offers a productive approach to improve vocabulary and word power. It is unfortunate that with time, people are losing their passion to read.

tell us who could we become if we are not careful. Reading provides the deepest connection to the morals that make us human, and part of a larger society.

(4) Books are a source of comfort for us. They are a safe shelter. Throughout human history man has found peace in the written works. Books are bridges – through their pages we make our contact with society. Those who read more are better prepared to face the world than those who don't read.

(5) Though reading a book connects us with humanity, it is also the last truly private act in a world that has become too public. As a nourishment for the mind, it is slow food in a world given over to fast food. Blogs, text messages and e-books, bring relevance and instant gratification, much as newspapers and magazines do. But however important such forms are, they endure only as long as the stuff they are printed on. The comforts of books defy time, and break borders.

Why does the author use the terms "fast food" and "slow food"?

Books offer other types of pleasures as well. The joy of their touch, sound and fragrance is immeasurable. The pleasure of their understanding is an addition to it. The sharing of a book with friends is still another form of joy. Libraries are the evidence of grandeur of a civilisation.

(6) It is important that we work to give every person the opportunity to enjoy books as shelters, sustenance, and roads forward. To imagine a world without books is to imagine a world without thought, feeling, compassion, history, or voice.

What role does a library play to promote the habit of book reading?

### THEME

*It is a well-known fact that when there were no televisions or computers, reading was a primary leisure activity. People would spend hours reading books and travel to lands far away-in their minds. The reading habit can become a healthy addiction and make us sensitive to global issues. It can also broaden our minds and improve our knowledge.*

**GLOSSARY**

<b>aspirations</b>	.....	a desire or ambition to achieve something
<b>beaming</b>	.....	smiling in a very obvious way
<b>blog</b>	.....	a biographical web log. the page usually contains someone's personal opinions, comments, and experiences.
<b>decade</b>	.....	a period of ten years
<b>defy</b>	.....	disobey
<b>demise</b>	.....	the time when something stops existing
<b>loathe</b>	.....	to dislike somebody or something intensely
<b>negate</b>	.....	prove something is false
<b>prevail</b>	.....	be or become the more widespread or more usual
<b>revelation</b>	.....	the revealing of something previously hidden or secret

**VOCABULARY****A. Explain each phrase as used in the lesson.**

- (a) books are bridges
- (b) his face beaming
- (c) books make us travel at large
- (d) connects one with humanity
- (e) nourishment for the mind

**B. Find five idioms in which comparative adjectives are used.**

**Example:** A bird in hand is better than two in the bush.

**For the Teacher:**

**Vocabulary A:** Help students find contextualized meanings of phrases.

**Vocabulary B:** Help them understand that idioms do not translate literally from one language to another.

**READING COMPREHENSION****A. Answer the following questions.**

1. How does a book connect the reader and the writer?
2. In what way are books better than radio, TV and internet?
3. "It's a slow food in a world given over to fast food" Explain.
4. Why should people be given more opportunity to read books?
5. Which book has inspired you the most? Why?

**B. Library Skills**

Libraries play a very important role in promoting reading habit. With joint effort you and your friends can also make a small library in your locality. "Visit your school library to learn the following library skills with the help of the librarian.

1. How to alphabetize book titles, words and names? Why is it important?
2. How to locate fiction and non-fiction books by subject?
3. What is the use of card catalogue?
4. What is the difference between author card, title card and subject card?
5. Why are cases and shelves labeled?
6. Which books are placed in the reference section and why?

## GRAMMAR

### Relative Pronouns

#### A. Choose the correct relative pronouns.

1. "Why are you so sad?" "I've lost the pen \_\_\_\_\_ I bought this morning."  
(a) which (b) that (c) what (d) whose
2. Have you seen the man \_\_\_\_\_ bought a book from the shop just now?  
(a) that (b) what (c) who (d) which
3. The man \_\_\_\_\_ you were talking to at the meeting is my cousin.  
(a) that (b) what (c) who (d) which
4. Fareed said \_\_\_\_\_ he needed the most was a long and quiet holiday.  
(a) that (b) which (c) what (d) who
5. Have you got anything \_\_\_\_\_ these poor women could take for their children?  
(a) which (b) that (c) whom (d) what

#### Adjective Clause

Function	Begins with .....	Example
Modifies a noun or a pronoun in the main clause.	A relative pronoun such as that, which, who, whom, whose. And a relative adverb such as where, when, why.	The umbrella <b>which has a broken handle</b> is mine.

#### For the Teacher:

Recall students' previous knowledge of relative pronouns. These pronouns begin with a subordinate clause and relate that clause to the main clause. e.g. who, whom, which and that.

**B. Pick out the adjective clause in each sentence.**

1. A person who acknowledges his mistakes is admirable.
2. People who live in glass houses should not throw stones.
3. The books that have been recommended are all out of stock.
4. The question that she posed was too difficult to answer.
5. Everyone who has been invited is present.

**C. In the following sentences replace adjective clauses by adjectives or adjective phrases.**

1. He is a person **who considers the interests of other people.**
2. Which is the road **that leads most quickly to the station?**
3. **The explanation** he gave **was not satisfactory.**
4. This is the place **where our forefathers landed.**
5. The reason **why he failed** is obvious.

### The Second Conditional Sentences

In the **second conditional sentences** we speculate about situations that will probably never happen at present or in future.

**Example:** What would you do, if there were no more books?

if clause	main clause
Simple Past	would + infinitive or could + infinitive or might + infinitive

**D. Put in the correct second conditional verb form.**

1. If he \_\_\_\_\_ (be) younger, he \_\_\_\_\_ (travel) more.
2. If she \_\_\_\_\_ (not / be) always so late, she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) promoted.
3. If I \_\_\_\_\_ (speak) perfect English, I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) a good job.
4. If she \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) the exam, she \_\_\_\_\_ (be) able to enter the university.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a house if we \_\_\_\_\_ (decide) to stay here.

**E. Form questions in passive voice.**

**Example:** coffee / grown / in South America / is


Is coffee grown in South America?

1. were/ caught/ the/ thieves
2. accepted/ will/ be/ my apology
3. the workers/ by computers/ will/ be/ replaced
4. was/ the accident/ by the police/ yesterday/ seen
5. where/ the first underground railway/ opened/ was

**ORAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

**Form groups and discuss the following.**

The writer says that "To imagine a world without books is to imagine a world without thought". Do you agree? Support your answer by giving relevant examples.

 **For the Teacher:**

**Oral:** Help students use appropriate expressions to state their opinions about the topic.



Use the following expressions to state your opinion.

Agreement	Disagreement
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>There are many reasons for...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>There is no doubt about it that...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I simply must agree with that.</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I am of the same opinion...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I am of the same opinion as...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I absolutely agree with...</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ <i>The problem is that ...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I (very much) doubt whether...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I am of a different opinion because...</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I cannot share this view.</i></li> <li>◆ <i>I cannot agree with this idea.</i></li> <li>◆ <i>What I object to is...</i></li> </ul>

## WRITING SKILLS

A. Read the letter to the editor and answer the questions given below.

### ENCOURAGING READING HABIT

The culture of reading has been declining in the country for ages. According to modern-era youth, the contributing factor for this is that books are not attracting readers anymore as they used to.

It gives me pain when the youth of the present ignore reading productive books which can be the building blocks of character, economy, society, politics and nation. As William Somerset Maugham said: "To acquire the habit of reading is to construct for yourself a refuge from almost all the miseries of life". So build a library at home.

The reading habit has been a great help in developing knowledge. But today in an age when browsing the net, playing with mobiles and passing non-stop SMS seem to be the order

of the day, TV and films fill the minds of youth. We have to think about it seriously as to how the growing generation can find time to read. While technology is taking control steadily over individual lives, so the reading habit is fast vanishing into thin air.

However, research on finding problems of the Pakistani nation shows that the poor economy of the country, inflation, low priority on education and increasing prices of books are the main causes of the dilemma.

Furthermore, I believe when there is no peace at home, then how can a writer justify its literature and pay heed to it. I believe change in lifestyle is another reason for the decline.

Besides, it is a tough and intense competition in seeking jobs which has led to further deepening the insecurity among middle-class families, discouraging the habit of reading books other than textbooks.

In order to sustain a strong reading culture among youth, misuse of net and technology should be banned.

It is important that parents of teenagers should not allow their children to use mobile phones.

In every village, town and city libraries should be set up by the government. At schools, colleges and universities, along with textbooks, some general books should be recommended and discussed.

### For the Teacher:

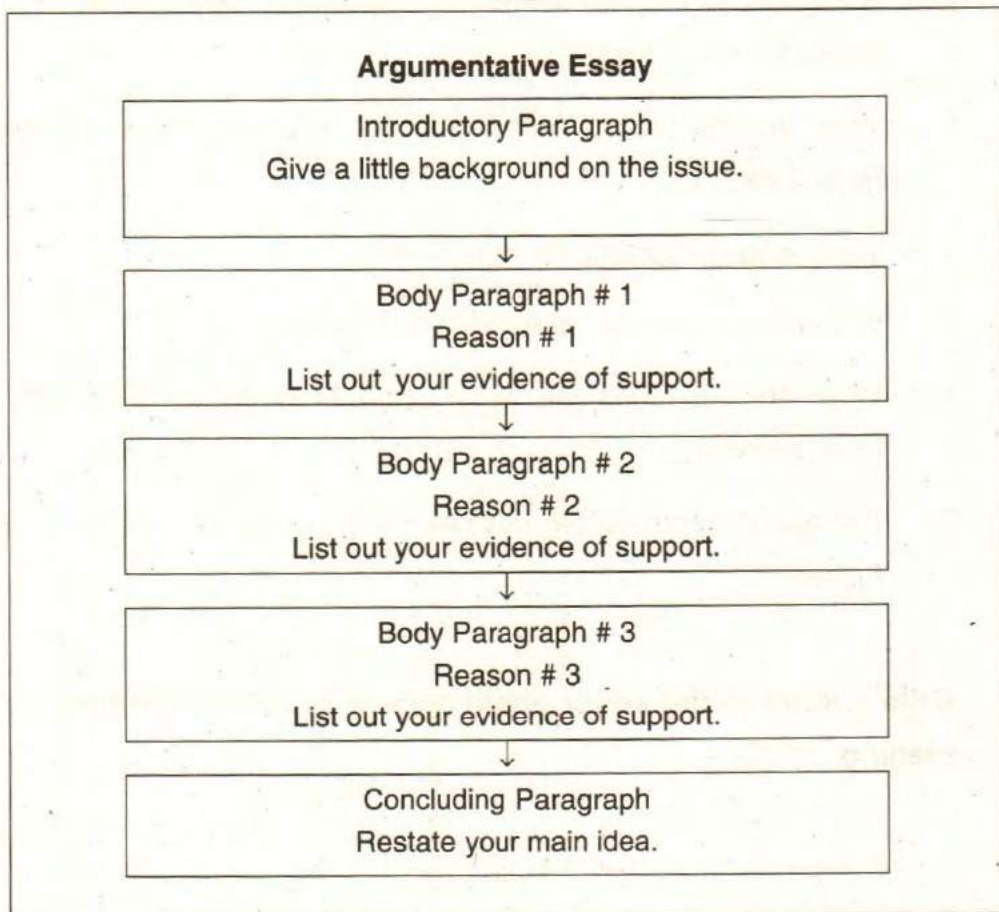
- Guide students to analyze the letter to the editor. Help them to recognize the effective ways of explaining and presenting an idea, a point or an opinion.

**Questions:**

1. What is the main idea of the letter?
2. According to the writer what has the youth lost by ignoring good books?
3. What are the factors responsible for diverting people's attention from books?
4. What is the responsibility of parents?
5. Why should libraries be established widely?
6. What solution does the writer suggest to promote the habit of book-reading?
7. Encircle the transitional devices used in the letter. What is their function?

**B. Write a letter to the editor about access to school libraries in the evening.**

- C. Write an argumentative essay on “TV is Taking Away the Habit of Reading Books”. (220–250 words). First make an outline of the essay with the help of following mind map.



#### For the Teacher:

**Writing C:** Ask students to follow the writing process given in the mind map for writing an argumentative essay.

Ask them to list ideas and arguments that support their opinion, then ideas and supporting arguments may be organized in a clear, structured and logical manner.

Help them to respond to opposing arguments by defending their point of view with factual evidence, quotations, expert opinion, logical reasoning and commonly held beliefs.