



CLASS - VI ENGLISH NOTES JULY

3. Uncle Ken on the Job

I. ERC:

1. "I'd rather finish it here. I want to spend all my holidays with you."

a) Who is the speaker and whom is he/she addressing?

The speaker is the author and he is speaking to his grandmother.

b) What does the speaker want to finish and where?

The speaker wants to finish his schooling in India. His granny had said that he might go abroad to finish his studies.

c) Why does the speaker want to spend the holidays with the other person?

The speaker is very fond of his granny and wonders who will look after her when she grows old. So, he wants to spend his holidays with her.

d) Does the other person agree to the speaker's decision?

No, the author's granny does not agree to his decision.

2. "We'll have to talk him into applying. He ought to go over and see them"

a) Who are 'we' and 'he' in the above extract?

'We' are the author and his grandmother. 'He' refers to the author's uncle, Ken.

b) What did the speaker want him to apply for?

Granny wanted Uncle Ken to apply for a tutor's job for the Maharani of Jetpur's children.

c) Why do you think he needed to be talked into it?

Uncle Ken was not interested in earning a living for himself and he spent his time living at his sisters' homes in turns. So, he had to be convinced to take up the job.

d) Whom did he need to meet and for what purpose?

He had to meet the Maharaja of Jetpur for a tutor's job for the royal children.

II. Short Answers:

1. Why did Granny think Uncle Ken needed a job?

Granny was concerned about Uncle Ken as he seemed to show no concern in earning a living. He was forty and was still living off others.

2. How did Ken make sure he didn't have to make a living?

Ken would spend three months each at his three sisters' place by turns and with his own mother for three months. All his needs would be taken care of in this way and he didn't need to earn a living.

3. Why did Granny think that Ken's sisters wouldn't like to host him once they were back in England?

Granny thought that Ken's sisters would not host him when they went back to England because there they would not have servants to help them. They would have to do everything by themselves and in that case Ken would be an extra burden for them.

III. Long Answers:

1. What kind of a person was Uncle Ken? Which of these words would you use for him? Give examples from the text to justify your choice.

Lazy carefree honest punctual dishonest
Pleasant presence of mind sincere

The words that describe Uncle Ken are:

- a) lazy - he was happy doing nothing and showed no intention of earning a living for himself
- b) carefree - he did not seem to be worried about the fact that he was not working and that he had no responsibilities.
- c) dishonest - he was certainly dishonest because he lied to the Maharajah saying that he played tennis, when in fact he vaguely remembered only playing it when he was very young. Then when he told the Maharajah that he had been to Oxford, the Maharajah thought Uncle Ken had studied there. But Uncle Ken had only stayed there for two years with his uncle and did not bother to clear the confusion.
- d) pleasant - he had a pleasant personality which is proved by the fact that everyone liked

him. His sisters doted on him and didn't mind him staying with them for long periods. Even the Maharajah seemed to like him and hired him immediately.

- e) presence of mind - he showed this quality when he went for an interview with the Maharajah. When the Maharajah asked him if he played tennis, he said yes immediately although he only vaguely remembered playing it as a young boy. Then when the Maharajah asked him if he had been to Cambridge, he said that he had been to Oxford. Uncle Ken knew that the Maharajah was actually referring to education but he didn't hesitate to say yes. Because of this he landed the job of a tutor.

2. Uncle Ken lied to the Maharaja about being at Oxford. Do you think it was all right for him to do so, considering the circumstances? Should he have been truthful? What do you think would have happened then?

Personal response—answers may vary. Accept all logically-explained answers.

Suggested answer: I think Uncle Ken should not have lied to the Maharajah no matter what the circumstances. It was not right for him to lie in order to get the job. He would have probably got the job anyway. His lies would have been caught later on by the Maharajah and then it would be embarrassing for him. Probably the Maharajah would have appreciated his honesty if he had told him the truth.