

NCERT Solutions for Class 7 English (Poorvi)

Unit 2- WIT And Humor: Chapter 6- Say the Right Thing

Let us discuss

I Complete the table given below based on Scene I of the play. An example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and the teacher.

Speaker	Words of the Speaker	Reason
Mrs. Shaw	The room looks cleaner now. Put that coat away in your bedroom.	To instruct Mary to keep the room tidy
Mary	You're always telling me to put things away.	
	I'm not a child!	
Mrs. Shaw		To highlight the importance of being kind as a way to ensure Mary says the appropriate things when guests arrive

Ans.

Speaker	Words of the Speaker	Reason
Mrs. Shaw	The room looks cleaner now. Put that coat away in your bedroom.	To instruct Mary to keep the room tidy
Mary	You're always telling me to put things away.	To express frustration at her mother's frequent instructions
Mary	I'm not a child!	To assert her independence and maturity
Mrs. Shaw	Say things that will please them	To highlight the importance of being kind as a way to ensure Mary says the appropriate things when guests arrive

II Do you think Mary will be able to follow her mother's advice successfully when Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Lee visit? Why or why not?

Ans. Mary tries hard to follow her mother's advice, but it seems unlikely she will succeed. She is confident and eager, but she doesn't fully understand how to talk politely or think before speaking. This might lead to mistakes when the guests arrive.

I Rectify the false statements given below from Scene II of the play. An example has been done for you. Share your answers with your classmates and the teacher.

1. Mrs. Harding states that they do not like London as it is not the same as Lanfield.

Rectification: Mrs. Harding states that they like Lanfield very much even though it is not the same as London.

2. Mrs. Harding was pleased to know that Mary was familiar with her children.

Rectification: Mrs. Harding was not pleased because she clarified that she did not have any children.

3. Mrs. Shaw shared that she liked Mrs. Best as she read a lot of newspapers.

Rectification: Mrs. Shaw shared that she liked Mrs. Best as a person, not because she read newspapers.

4. Mrs. Harding and Mrs. Shaw agree that wearing a blue dress with a red coat is unfashionable.

Rectification: Mrs. Shaw quickly stated that she liked blue dresses and red coats to avoid offending Mrs. Harding, who mentioned that she often wears a blue dress with a red coat.

5. Mary shares that she finds the dog outside the window cute.

Rectification: Mary shares that she finds the dog outside dirty and expresses her dislike for it, not finding it cute. Later, she discovers that the dog belongs to Mrs. Harding.

Let us think and reflect

I Read the extracts given below and answer the questions that follow.

1. Mary : What are you going to talk about?

Mrs. Shaw : I don't know. All kinds of things. One day you'll have to go to some of these houses yourself and talk to the people there.

Mary : I can talk now. I've been able to talk for a long time.

Mrs. Shaw : Yes, that's true. You always talk too much. But does anyone want to hear the things that you say?

Mary : I can talk very well when I like. I'll stay with you today and talk to them when they come.

Mrs. Shaw : Oh, I don't think so. You can go out for a walk. It will be better if you do that.

(i) What does Mrs. Shaw imply when she says, "One day you'll have to go to some of these houses yourself and talk to the people there"?

- A. She believes Mary should start learning about hosting guests then.
- B. She thinks Mary is ready to visit these houses independently.
- C. She wants Mary to develop social skills for the future.
- D. She hopes Mary will avoid these social interactions entirely. Ans. C. She wants Mary to develop social skills for the future.

(ii) Complete the following sentence with the correct option from the brackets.

Mrs. Shaw and Mary are discussing how to _____. (have a polite conversation/ get to know people better)

Ans. have a polite conversation

(iii) Why did Mary insist on staying with her mother when the guests arrived?

Ans. Mary wanted to prove her ability to engage in conversation and demonstrate that she could talk appropriately when required.

(iv) Match the following character traits to the characters in

A. the extract: eager B. inexperienced C. cautious

Mary Mrs. Shaw

Ans. Mary: A. eager Mrs. Shaw: C. cautious

2. Mary : I saw Mrs. Cotter this afternoon. I met her in the street.

No one sees her in the morning because she always stays in bed then. And she's always asking the doctor to go to see her. I can't understand women who stay in bed in the morning. And why must she always ask for the doctor? I've never been to a doctor in my life.

Mrs. Harding : I stay in bed in the morning myself.

(i) Complete the following sentence suitably.

Mary could spot Mrs. Cotter in the street because _____.

Ans. she often goes out during the day

(ii) What does Mary's comment about Mrs. Cotter staying in bed and calling the doctor suggest about her understanding?

A. She is worried about why Mrs. Cotter stays in bed all morning.

B. She is unable to understand why people need medical help.

C. She thinks Mrs. Cotter is scared and lonely for staying in bed.

D. She believes Mrs. Cotter is right to rest and take care of herself. Ans. B. She is unable to understand why people need medical help.

(iii) How can we say that Mary enjoyed good health?

Ans. We can say that Mary enjoyed good health because she mentions that she has never needed to visit a doctor in her life, suggesting her robust health.

(iv) Identify whether the following statement is true or false. Mary might have unintentionally offended Mrs. Harding. Ans. True

II Answer the following questions.

1. What does Mary's comment about Mr. Best's routine and profession reveal about her viewpoint on bankers and their way of life?

Ans. Mary's comment shows that she finds the routine of bankers dull and lifeless. She criticises their daily train commutes and lack of creativity in reading only newspapers, implying that bankers are unthinking and overly focused on work.

2. What can we infer about Mary's understanding of polite conversation based on her interactions with the guests?

Ans. Mary's interactions show that she doesn't understand polite conversation well. She often makes inappropriate remarks that embarrass the guests, despite her mother's advice to say kind and pleasing things

3. What do you think the repeated stage direction 'no one speaks' indicates about the atmosphere in the room when Mary speaks?

Ans. The stage direction 'no one speaks' indicates awkward silence and discomfort in the room. It suggests that Mary's comments make the guests uneasy and unsure of how to respond.

4. How does Mary's attitude towards the guests change throughout the play?

Ans. At first, Mary is eager to talk and impress the guests. However, as the play progresses, her blunders make her more embarrassed and hesitant, especially when her remarks offended the guests.

5. What do Mrs. Harding's and Mrs. Lee's responses to Mary's blunders during their visit reveal about their characters?

Ans. Mrs., Harding and Mrs. Lee respond to Mary with restraint and politeness, even when she makes inappropriate remarks. This reveals their patience and ability to maintain composure in an uncomfortable situation.

6. In what way does the play show the importance of knowing how to engage in polite conversation?

Ans. The play highlights that knowing how to engage in polite conversation is important to make a good impression and build relationships. Mary's mistakes show how tactless words can create awkwardness and distance between people.