



Leisure

  What is this life if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare?
No time to stand beneath the boughs
And stare as long as sheep or cows.
No time to see, when woods we pass,
Where squirrels hide their nuts in grass.
No time to see, in broad daylight,
Streams full of stars, like skies at night.
No time to turn at Beauty's glance,
And watch her feet, how they can dance.
No time to wait till her mouth can
Enrich that smile her eyes began.
A poor life this is if, full of care,
We have no time to stand and stare.

William H. Davies

ABOUT THE POEM

The poem was written by a man called W. H. Davies. He wrote many poems and he also wrote a story about his own life. The book is called *The Autobiography of a Super-Tramp*.

In this poem, the poet says we should not be so busy in life that we have no time to see the beautiful things around us. Beauty is spoken of as a person; she glances and dances with her beautiful feet; she smiles.

WORDS TO KNOW

bough a branch

broad (here) full; open

care (here) a worry; something that takes all our attention and causes us to worry

enrich to make rich; to improve the quality of something

glance a quick look

stare to look directly at something for a long time

COMPREHENSION

1. Answer the following questions.

- What is the meaning of the word 'leisure'? Look it up in a dictionary.
- What do you think the following phrases mean?
 - full of care
 - streams full of stars
 - broad daylight

These questions are more difficult. Discuss them first.

- Which stanza do you think is the most important?
- Which stanza do you like the best? Why?
- In the fifth stanza, *Beauty* is mentioned with a capital B. *Beauty* is treated like a person. What does *Beauty* do like a person?

2. Answer the questions about these lines from the poem.

No time to wait till her mouth can

Enrich that smile her eyes began.

- Who or what is 'her' in these lines?

- b. What should there be time for?
- c. What does the word 'enrich' mean?

WORKING WITH WORDS

In the sixth verse you will find the word *enrich*. This word means make richer or make better in quality. The letters *en* are joined to the word *rich*. In this word *en* is a prefix. There are many prefixes used in English.

1. Do you know what these prefixes stand for?

en (enrich, enable)

un (unlikely, unsuitable, unable)

in (incorrect, inability, inaccurate)

dis (dissatisfied, disappear)

2. Copy the prefixes and words into your notebook. Add more words to each list.

3. Below you will find some clues. You will have to think of the correct word and then write down the first letter of the word.

- a.
 - i. We fly in it
 - ii. It comes after the day
 - iii. Most people have ten of these
- b.
 - i. Four tens
 - ii. A citizen of our country
 - iii. The title of the poem you have just read
 - iv. Not a few; lots
- c.
 - i. An examination
 - ii. Not the left; the opposite
 - iii. Liquid for writing
 - iv. Larger than a town
 - v. Married to a queen



4. Make up similar puzzles of your own.

LEARNING ABOUT LANGUAGE

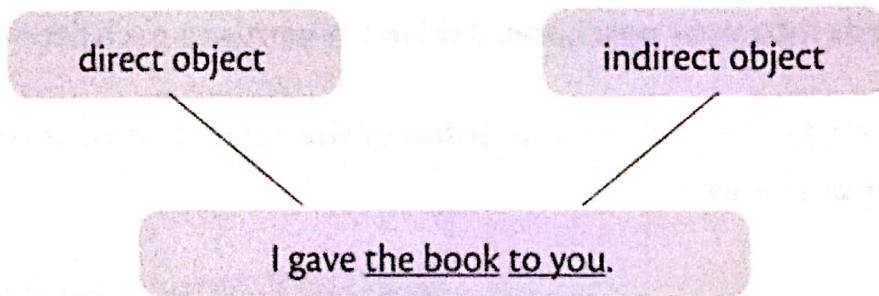
SUBJECTS AND OBJECTS

1. Do you remember what you have learnt about subjects and objects? Underline the subjects in the following sentences.

- The girl ran down the road.
- The girl and the boy ran down the road.
- The tall girl and the short boy climbed the fence.
- Three old men, two young girls and a dog were waiting for the bus.
- The man, who gave me the money, is sitting in that shop.

DIRECT AND INDIRECT OBJECTS

Look at the following sentence:



In this sentence *the book* is called the direct object and *to you* is called the indirect object.

We can write this sentence in another way:

I gave you the book.

(Note that *to* is omitted.)

2. Put a line under the direct object and circle the indirect object in each of the following.

- She brought me a cake.
- They gave some food to the traveller.
- I sang a song to her.
- The teacher showed the class a video.



USING 'TO'

3. Change the following sentences and put in the word *to*.

- I gave him the book.
- I sent my uncle a letter.
- I lent her my pen.
- They showed us the lake.

LISTENING AND SPEAKING

Think about four actions that you can perform and describe.

Examples: stand on one leg, scratch your head, etc.

When you have thought about the actions you are going to perform, note them down so that you don't forget.

Take turns to perform the four actions and describe them to the others in class. You must introduce each action, in turn, in the following way:

1. First, I ...
2. Then I ...
3. After that, I/Following that, I ...
4. Lastly, I ...

COMPOSITION



Write a short paragraph about what you think the poet is trying to tell us. Do you agree with the poet?

