

I. A Baker from Goa

By Lucio Rodrigues

Page No: 86

Oral Comprehension Check

1. What are the elders in Goa nostalgic about?

Answer: The elders in Goa were nostalgic about the good old Portuguese days, the Portuguese, and their famous loaves of bread.

2. Is bread-making still popular in Goa? How do you know?

Answer : Yes, bread-making is still popular in Goa. The author has described about the existence of time-old furnaces and their still burning fire. The Goan society is still having moulders, bread mixers and bakers.

3. What is the baker called?

Answer : The bakers are known as *pader* .

4. When would the baker come every day? Why did the children run to meet him?

Answer: The baker came twice every day, once when he set out in the morning on his selling round, and then again, when he returned after emptying his huge basket. The children ran to meet him not because of their love of the loaf, which was bought by the maid-servant of the house. They actually longed for the bread-bangles, which they chose carefully. Sometimes, it was a sweet bread of special make.

Page No: 87

Oral Comprehension Check

1. Match the following. What is a must

(i)	as marriage gifts?	-	cakes and bolinhas
(ii)	for a party or a feast?	-	sweet bread called bol
(iii)	for a daughter's engagement?	-	bread

(iv)	for Christmas?	-	sandwiches
------	----------------	---	------------

Answer

(i)	as marriage gifts?	-	sweet bread called bol
(ii)	for a party or a feast?	-	bread
(iii)	for a daughter's engagement?	-	sandwiches
(iv)	for Christmas?	-	cakes and bolinhas

2. What did the bakers wear: (i) in the Portuguese days? (ii) when the author was young?

Answer: (i) In the Portuguese days, the bakers had a peculiar dress known as the *kabai*. It was a single-piece long frock reaching down to the knees.

(ii) When the author was young, he saw the bakers wearing a shirt and trousers, which were shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.

3. Who invites the comment – “he is dressed like a *pader*”? Why?

Answer: Anyone who wears a half-pant which reaches just below the knees invites the comment that “he is dressed like a *pader*”. This was so because the bakers were known as *pader* and they wore such half pants.

4. Where were the monthly accounts of the baker recorded?

Answer: The monthly accounts of the baker were recorded on some wall in pencil.

5. What does a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ mean?

Answer: A ‘jackfruit-like appearance’ means a plump physique. Such a physique was linked to the bakers because they never starved. Baking was a profitable profession. The baker, his family, and his servants always looked happy and prosperous and had a ‘jackfruit-like appearance’.

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.

Answer

- (i) Correct
- (ii) Correct
- (iii) Incorrect. The paders still exist in Goan villages.
- (iv) Incorrect. The paders wear shirts, and trousers that are shorter than full-length ones and longer than half pants.
- (v) Incorrect. Bread and cakes are still an integral part of Goan life.
- (vi) Correct
- (vii) Incorrect. Baking is still a very profitable business in Goa.

2. Is bread an important part of Goan life? How do you know this?

Answer: Bread is an important part of Goan life. Marriage gifts are meaningless without the sweet bread known as the bol. For a party, bread is a must, while for Christmas, cakes and bolinhas are a must. Sandwiches must be prepared by the lady of the house on her daughter's engagement. The author says that everybody loves the fragrance of loaves. The elders were given loaves and the children were given bread-bangles, which they longed for. Also, the fact that bakery is a profitable profession shows that the love for bread is enormous in Goa.

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)

Answer

(i) Nostalgic

(ii) Nostalgic

(iii) Nostalgic

(iv) Funny

(v) Matter-of-fact

(vi) Matter-of-fact

II. Coorg

By Lokesh Abrol

Page No: 92

Thinking about the Text

1. Where is Coorg?

Answer: Coorg is the smallest district of Karnataka, located midway between Mysore and Mangalore.

2. What is the story about the Kodavu people's descent?

Answer: It is believed that Kodavu people are of Arabic origin. It is said that some of Alexander's army men moved to south and settled there. Their costume, martial practices and marriage rituals also point to the fact that they are from Arabic origin.

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?

Answer: (i) The people of Coorg are fiercely independent. They are of Greek or Arabic descent. They have a tradition of hospitality. They enjoy recounting numerous tales of valour related to their sons and fathers. Kodavus are the only people in India permitted to carry firearms without a license. The author has described the people of Coorg as a proud race of martial men and beautiful women. (ii) Coffee is the main crop of Coorg. The coffee estates stand tucked under tree canopies in prime corners. (iii) The sports that Coorg offers to tourists are river rafting, canoeing, rappelling, rock climbing, mountain biking, and trekking. (iv) The animals that one is likely to see in Coorg are birds, bees, butterflies, macaques, Malabar squirrels, langurs, loris, and wild elephants. (v) The distance between Coorg and Bangalore is around 260 km. There are two routes to Coorg from Bangalore and both are of the same distance. The most frequented route is the one via Mysore. The other route is via Neelamangal, Kunigal, and Chanrayanapatna.

Page No: 93

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)

Answer

- (i) keep many visitors away
- (ii) as one story goes
- (iii) are more than willing to recount
- (iv) the most laidback individuals become converts to
- (v) draws support from
- (vi) keep a watchful eye

Tea from Assam

Short Answer Type Questions

1. How does Rajvir describe the tea-garden at Dhekiaberi?

Answer: On both sides of the gravel road were acres and acres of neatly pruned tea bushes. It was the second sprouting period. Women wearing plastic aprons were plucking new tea leaves and putting them in the bamboo baskets.

2. Describe the scenery that Rajvir saw as soon as the train pulled out of the station.

Answer: When the train moved ahead, there were huge fields full of green plantations. Rajvir had never seen so much greenery. He called it a 'magnificent view'. The bushes were spread like a sea against the backdrop of densely wooded hills.

3. How are tea pluckers different from other farm labourers?

Answer: The tea pluckers are different from other farm labourers. The women plucking tea leaves in the tea gardens look like dolls. They wear plastic aprons and carry baskets on their backs to put tea leaves in them.

4. How can you say that tea was first drunk in China?

Answer: There is an ancient legend about the discovery of tea. A Chinese emperor had the habit of drinking boiling water. One day a twig from the fire fell into the pot in which water was being boiled. It gave a delicious flavour to the water. It is said that those were tea leaves and that was the first tea. It is thus thought that tea was first taken in China.

5. What information was given by Pranjol's father to Rajvir about Assam Tea Estate?

Answer: He was the manager of a tea garden in upper Assam. He showed Pranjol and Rajvir the acres of tea bushes, all neatly pruned to the same height. Groups of women pluckers with bamboo baskets were plucking the newly sprouted leaves.

6. What happened to the Chinese emperor in "Tea from Assam" who always boiled water before drinking it?

Or

What is the Chinese legend regarding tea?

Or

What is the Chinese story about the discovery of tea?

Or

What is the history of tea in China?

Answer: A Chinese emperor had the habit of drinking boiled water. One day a twig fell into the pot in which water was being boiled. It gave a delicious flavour to the water. It is said that those were tea leaves.

7. What was the Indian legend about the discovery of tea?

Or

Write down the Buddhist legend about tea.

Answer: An Indian legend goes like this. Once there was a Buddhist, ascetic Bodhidharma who used to feel sleepy during meditations. So he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. When the leaves of these plants were put in hot water and drunk, they banished sleep.

8. What did Rajvir see when he entered the Tea Estate?

Or

What made Rajvir amazed on the way?

Answer: Rajvir was amazed to see huge fields full of green plantations. There were vast green tea gardens on both sides of the road. The tall trees at the back of the gardens, in the forest on the rolling hills, looked beautiful.

9. Which tea is considered the best tea? Why?

Answer: Assam tea is considered to be the best tea as it has the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. The weather and environmental conditions are perfect here to grow tea plants.

10. Who were Pranjol and Rajvir? Where were they going?

Answer: Pranjol and Rajvir were friends. Pranjol belonged to Assam. He was studying in a school in Delhi. Rajvir was his classmate. Pranjol's father was the manager of a tea-garden in Upper Assam. Pranjol invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation. Both of them travelled to Assam on a train.

11. What did Rajvir and Pranjol do after the train pulled out of the station?

Answer: When the train pulled out of the station. Pranjol became busy reading a detective book. Rajvir was looking out of the train. It was green, green everywhere. He had never seen so much greenery before.

12. Which story of a Chinese emperor is associated with the discovery of tea?

Answer: According to one legend, a Chinese emperor discovered tea by chance. He always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves off the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water. As a result, the boiled water got a delicious flavour. It is said they were tea leaves.

13. What is the Indian legend about the discovery of tea?

Answer: According to an Indian legend, Bodhi dharma, an ancient Buddhist monk, fell asleep during meditation. So he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drank banished sleep.

14. Where was tea first drunk? When did tea come to Europe?

Answer: It is believed that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. Words like 'chai and 'chini' are Chinese. Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century. At first, it was used more as a medicine than as a beverage.

15. What is the best season for tea Production?

Answer: Rajvir and Pranjol reached Assam in the sprouting season. This season lasts from May to July. The best tea is produced during this season.

16. How has tea become a popular beverage?

Answer: Tea is decidedly a very popular beverage in the world. More than eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. At every platform in India, you can hear vendors crying "Chai-garam". The people can't resist buying the steaming hot cups of tea.

17. Why was Rajvir so much excitement?

Answer: Rajvir had never seen so much greenery before. He was looking at the beautiful scenery. The soft green paddy fields gave way to tea bushes. Against the backdrop of densely wooded hills, a sea of tea bushes stretched as far as the eyes could see. The orderly rows of bushes were pruned to the same height. Rajvir was really excited to see the magnificent view.

18. Why didn't Pranjol share Rajvir's excitement?

Answer: Pranjol had been born and brought up on a tea plantation. He was familiar with tea gardens. On the other hand, Rajvir had never visited any tea plantation ever before. A sea of bushes stretching as far as the eyes could see fascinated him. The magnificent view, orderly rows of tea bushes really excited him. But Pranjol was used to such sights.

19. Describe the Chinese legend regarding the discovery of tea leaves.

Answer: There is a Chinese legend regarding the discovery of tea leaves. One Chinese emperor always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves of the burning twigs under the pot fell into the water. The result was wonderful. The water gave a delicious flavour. Those leaves that gave the water a delicious flavour were tea leaves.

20. What is the Indian legend regarding the discovery of tea?

Answer: We have an Indian legend regarding the discovery of tea. Bodhi dharma, an ancient Buddhist ascetic, cut off his eyelids because he fell sleepy during meditation. It is said that ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of those plants, when put in hot water and drunk, banished sleep.

21. Where and when did the drinking of tea start and how did it come to Europe?

Answer: The drinking of tea first started in China. Tea was drunk in China as far as 2700 B.C. Words like tea, 'char and 'chin? are from Chinese. Tea came to Europe in the 16th century. In Europe, tea was dining as medicine than a beverage in the early period.

22. What did Rajvir see in the Dhekiaberi tea estate managed by Pranjol's father?

Answer: The tea estate at Dhekiaberi was managed by Pranjol's father. Rajvir saw acre upon acre of tea bushes on both sides of the gravel road. They were all pruned to the same height. Groups of tea-pluckers, wearing plastic aprons were plucking the newly sprouted leaves. It was the second sprouting period.

23. Where was Rajvir and why?

Answer: Rajvir and Pranjol were two youngsters. Actually, they were classmates at school in Delhi. Pranjol's father is the manager of a tea garden in Upper Assam. Pranjol was born and brought up on the tea estate. He invited Rajvir to visit his home and the Dhekiabari Tea Estate during the summer vacation.

24. Why did Pranjol's father say in surprise that Rajvir had done his homework before coming there?

Answer: A tractor was pulling a trailer-load of tea leaves at the Dhekiabari Tea Estate. Rajvir asked Pranjol's father if that was the second flush or sprouting period. Rajvir told that the second sprouting period lasts from May to July and yields the best tea. Such detailed information about tea leaves surprised Pranjol's father. He told Rajvir that he seemed to have done his homework before coming here.

25. How and where are tea leaves collected in Assam?

Answer: Assam has the largest number of tea estates in India. Acre upon acre of tea bushes is stretching as far as the eyes can go. All the bushes are pruned to the same height. Groups of tea pluckers carry bamboo basket on their backs to collect tea-leaves. They wear plastic aprons. They pluck the newly-sprouted tea leaves from the bushes. Then the leaves are dried and processed in factories.

Long Answer Type Questions

1. What are the legends related to the discovery of tea?

Answer: There are many popular legends about the discovery of tea. Two of them are as follows –

A Chinese Emperor was used to drinking boiled water. One day a twig from the fire fell into the pot in which water was being boiled. It gave a delicious flavour to the drink. It is said that those were tea leaves. An Indian legend goes like this. Once there was a Buddhist ascetic who used to feel sleepy during meditations. So he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. When the leaves from these plants were put in hot water and drunk they banished sleep.

2. What details do you gather about tea from the lesson, 'Tea from Assam'? Or

What information do you gather about the history of tea after reading the lesson, 'Tea from Assam'?

Answer: Tea was first drunk in China. Even the words 'chai' and 'chini' are from Chinese. It goes back to 2700 B.C. In the 16th century, tea came to Europe and was drunk more as a medicine than as a beverage. Assam has the largest concentration of tea plantations in the world. There are large groups of women with bamboo baskets on their backs. They pluck the newly sprouted tea leaves from the plants and store them in the baskets.

3. What landscape did Rajvir notice while sitting in the train?

Answer: Rajvir was fascinated by the scenic beauty of the place. There were vast green tea gardens on both sides of the road. The tall trees at the back of the gardens in the forest on the rolling hills looked beautiful. The women plucking tea leaves looked like dolls. On the way, he saw people drinking tea. He also saw an ugly building with smoke coming out of its chimneys. Rajvir was received by Mrs and Mr Barua and was taken towards Dhekiabari Tea Estate. On both sides of the gravel road were acres and acres of neatly pruned

tea bushes. It was the second sprouting period. Women were wearing plastic aprons and plucking new tea leaves and putting them in the bamboo baskets on their backs.

4. Where were Pranjol and Rajvir going? What did Rajvir see when he looked out of the train on the way?

Answer: Pranjol belonged to Assam. He was studying in a school in Delhi. Rajvir was his classmate. Pranjol's father was the manager of a tea-garden in Upper Assam. Pranjol invited Rajvir to visit his home during the summer vacation. Both of them travelled to Assam on a train. When the train stopped at a station, a vendor called, 'chai-garam garam-chaff, they took tea and started sipping it. Rajvir told Pranjol that Over eighty crore cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world. Pranjol started reading his detective book again. But Rajvir looked out of the window of a moving train. There was beautiful scenery outside. Soon the soft green paddy fields were left behind and there were tea bushes everywhere. Rajvir was fascinated by the magnificent view of tea gardens.

5. What did Rajvir tell Pranjol about the discovery of tea?

Answer: Rajvir said that no one really knows who discovered tea. He told Pranjol that there were many legends attached to the discovery of tea. According to one story, a Chinese emperor discovered tea by chance. He always boiled water before drinking it. One day a few leaves off the twigs burning under the pot fell into the water. As a result, the boiled water got a delicious flavour. It is said they were tea leaves.

According to another Indian legend, Bodhidharma, an ancient Buddhist monk, fell asleep during meditations. So he cut off his eyelids. Ten tea plants grew out of the eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drank banished sleep. It is believed that tea was first drunk in China in 2700 B.C. Words like 'chaff' and 'chini' are Chinese. Tea came to Europe in the sixteenth century. At first, it was used more as a medicine than as a beverage.

6. What did Rajvir see during his train journey.' by was he more excited than his friend Pranjol?

Answer: Rajvir, a classmate of Pranjol, is visiting Dhekiaban Tea Estate in Assam, for the first time. Actually, he is enjoying the train journey to Assam with his friend Pranjol whose father manages Diabari Tea Estate. The beautiful scenery fascinates Rajvir. It is green, green everywhere. He sees so

much greenery for the first time in his life. Now the landscape changes. The paddy fields give way to tea bushes. A sea of tea bushes is stretching as far as eyes can go. The orderly rows of bushes are pruned to the same height. Groups of tea pickers are carrying bamboo baskets on their backs. They are plucking the newly sprouted leaves. The magnificent view fascinates Rajvir. However, Pranjol is not so much excited. These views are not new to him. He was born and brought up on a tea plantation.

7. What are different legends related to tea leaves?

Answer: Tea was first drunk in China as far back as 2700 B.C. In fact, words like 'Thai' and 'Chilli' came from Chinese. According to one Chinese legend, there was a Chinese emperor. He always boiled water before drinking it. One day, some leaves from the twigs burning under the pot fell into the boiling water. The leaves gave a delicious flavour. It is said that they were tea leaves. We have an Indian legend about the discovery of tea leaves. Bodhidharma was an ancient Buddhist ascetic. It is said that he cut off his eyelids because he fell sleepy during meditation. It is said that ten tea plants grew out of his eyelids. The leaves of these plants when put in hot water and drunk banished sleep. In Europe, tea came as late as the sixteenth century. It was drunk more like medicine than a beverage.

8. It seems that Rajvir had done a lot of homework regarding tea and its history. Do you support Pranjol's father's statement that he gave about Rajvir's knowledge in this regard?

Answer: It is true that Rajvir had never visited a tea estate ever before in his life. His visit to Dhekiabari Tea Estate was at the invitation of his classmate Pranjol whose father managed the estate. But Rajvir seemed to have done a lot of homework and reading about tea and tea plantations before coming to Assam. He told Pranjol that tea is one of the most popular beverages in the world. More than eighty crores of cups of tea are drunk every day throughout the world.

When he saw an ugly building with smoke billowing out of its tall buildings, he at once cried "Hey, a tea garden!". Actually, he had been reading as much about tea as he could. He narrated different legends regarding the discovery of tea leaves. It was Rajvir who narrated the legends describing how tea leaves were discovered in India and China. Rajvir impressed and surprised Pranjol's father about his deep knowledge of tea-leaves. When he saw a tractor pulling a trailer load of tea leaves, he recognised that it was the second-flush or

sprouting period. He also knew that it continues from May and to July and yields the best tea.

9. Pranjol was born and brought up on a tea estate in Assam but he was Rajvir who knew much about tea leaves and the legends associated with tea. Base your answer on their visit to Dhekiaberi Tea Estate in Assam.

Answer: It is true that Pranjol was born and brought up on a tea plantation. His father managed Dhekiaberi Tea Estate in Assam. However, his friend Rajvir's knowledge about tea and its history was more profound than him. The reason was simple. Rajvir had done a lot of reading about tea and its history. He even surprised Pranjol's father with his in-depth knowledge of the subject.

Rajvir's visit to Dhekiaberi was an opportunity for him to connect his reading and knowledge to the real existing tea plantation. He was fascinated by the magnificent sea of tea bushes stretching as far as his eyes could go. He saw with his own eyes the groups of tea pluckers, with bamboo baskets on their backs, plucking the newly-sprouted leaves. His studies helped him to recognise that the trailer-load of tea leaves were the second-flush or the sprouting period that gave the best tea.