

**STUDY COURSE MATERIAL**

**ENGLISH**

**SESSION-2020-21**

**CLASS- VII**

**TOPIC: An Uncomfortable Bed**

**DAY-1**

**❖ TEACHING MATERIAL**

**An Uncomfortable Bed**

- By Guy De Maupassant

**Summarizing the story**

**"An Uncomfortable Bed"**

When the story opens on a chateau in Picardy (that's in France), we're introduced to a group of friends who have gotten together for hunting season. The narrator tells us one critical detail about these friends, but doesn't go into deep explanation about each guy: these guys are jokesters. As in, they like to play practical jokes on each other and everyone else. It's a fact that the narrator doesn't object to because he tells us, "My friends were fond of practical joking, as all my friends are. I do not care to know any other sort of people."

**Immediately On Guard**

Very early in the story - in fact, upon the narrator's arrival - we discover that he is immediately distrustful of his friends' welcome. The pack of friends engage in some shooting, but all the while, the narrator is waiting for the other shoe to drop: "Look out, old ferret! They have something in preparation for you," he says.

Dinnertime has arrived and, still, the narrator is suspicious. His friends' **mirth** (or fun) is too great, the narrator concludes. Surely the friends are up to something. Yet, the evening continues without incident. It doesn't stop the narrator from watching every word and meaning uttered during their time together. He's even suspicious of the servants in the residence.

**Bedtime Comes**

At last, the hour for bedtime arrives, and each friend prepares to retire for the evening. The narrator, already in his room, hears laughter and whispering in the hall. Surely, now, the practical joke is close to happening.

The narrator looks around the room: from the curtains to the armchair. He lights every candle in the room, fearful of his single candle going out and being the subject of a great joke in the dark.

The bed, the narrator decides, looks particularly suspicious: "I was going perhaps to receive a cold shower-bath from overhead, or perhaps, the moment I stretched myself out, to find myself sinking under the floor with my mattress," he offers.

To thwart any possible practical joke attempts, the narrator decides to pull the mattress off of the bed's frame and position it in the center of the room. It's here that he settles in for the night and eventually falls asleep.

After hours of sleep he discovers that no such prank is in store. Instead the valet, not knowing the room has been rearranged and the narrator is sleeping on the floor, trips over him, landing on the narrator and spilling the morning cup of tea all over the narrator.

## ❖ VIDEO-LINKS

### LINK-1

[https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=a\\_VJVe4Uq9c](https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=a_VJVe4Uq9c)

### LINK-2

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=LoHZyyL7NkQ>

## DAY-2

## ❖ TEACHING MATERIAL

Humour is an integral part of **Guy de Maupassant**'s short story "The Uncomfortable Bed." The narrator arrives at a hunting lodge and immediately begins to suspect that his friends are planning a practical joke at his expense, noting that "my friends were fond of practical joking." He is absolutely convinced that he will be the target of a prank, declaring that he can smell "a practical joke in the air, as a dog smells game." While he remains convinced that his friends have something humiliating in mind for him, he cannot figure out what it is. He cautiously searches his darkened room for anything astray or suspicious, dependent upon candles for illumination. He continues to search for any sign of the practical joke he firmly believes awaits him, finally settling on the bed as the probable source of "danger." Confident that the bed has been sabotaged in some way, and assuming that his actions are being monitored by his friends, he drags the mattress and bedding onto the floor, and lies down to sleep with the suspicious bed frame left unused. Much to his chagrin, he discovers that no such prank is in store. Instead the valet, not knowing the room has been rearranged and the narrator is sleeping on the floor, trips over him, landing on the narrator and spilling the morning cup of tea all over the narrator. In closing, he notes: "The precautions I had taken in closing the shutters and going to sleep in the middle of the room had only brought about the interlude I had been striving to avoid."

### Keywords from the Story

Chateau

Shutters

Mirth

Furniture

Venture

## DAY-3

## What is a good theme for "The Uncomfortable Bed" by Guy de Maupassant?

One theme could be the **pride of the narrator**. He is so concerned about out-smarting his friends that he, in effect, out-smarts himself, by moving his bed to the middle of the floor and making his room dark. When the valet trips over him and spills his breakfast, he is not being “pranked” – the valet simply could not see him and did not expect to find a mattress in the middle of the room. So in a sense the “prank” is the narrator’s own suspicious nature!

Another possible theme could be **appearance vs. reality**: the narrator is paying close attention to the behavior of his friends, and his interpretation of their good spirits is that they must be up to something. The reality of the situation is not really available to us as readers; we can assume, however, by the events of the story that the narrator was wrong about his friends.

A third possible theme is **paranoia**. If we think about the narrator as someone who is paranoid, then his actions and suspicions take on the character of mental illness: everyone is out to get him; even though he will go to any length to avoid being pranked, jokers are the only sort of people he cares to know; his suspicions cause him to behave in an irrational manner (by moving the bed and assaulting the valet). Even the final line of the story (“How they all laughed that day!”) suggests that despite all his efforts he has been “gotten” in the end.

Finally, another theme could be you get as good as you give. The gentleman is visiting friends who are practical jokers, and he admits to being one himself. This makes him very suspicious when he enters the bedroom in the chateau. He hears laughing outside of his door and thinks that his friends are waiting for him to be the subject of one of their jokes. After lighting all of the candles and securing the windows, he stays awake. Soon, he decides to retire to his bed but not before remaking the bed on the floor. In the morning, he is awakened rudely by the butler who trips over the visitor while delivering the morning tea. Hot tea spills all over him, which he believes to be an awful liquid. In the end, the joke was on him.

### DAY-4

#### **Sentence:**

a set of words that is complete in itself, typically containing a subject and predicate, conveying a statement, question, exclamation, or command, and consisting of a main clause and sometimes one or more subordinate clauses.

## The Four Types of Sentence

## The Four Sentence Types

### declarative sentence

(makes a statement)



A lie told often enough becomes the truth.

### interrogative sentence

(asks a question)



What is history but a fable agreed upon?

### imperative sentence

(gives a command)



Get in your tanks.

### exclamatory sentence

(expresses emotion)



Ouch! That hurts!

A sentence can convey a statement, a question, an exclamation, or a command.

### The Four Sentence Structures:-

A sentence can consist of a single clause or several clauses. When a sentence is a single clause, it is called a simple sentence (and the clause is called an independent clause). A sentence must contain at least one independent clause. Below are the four types of sentence structure (with their independent clauses shaded):

- **A Complex Sentence.**

A complex sentence has an independent clause and at least one dependent clause. For example:

- Diplomacy is the art of saying "nice doggie" until you can find a rock.
- When you're on the Internet, nobody knows you're a dog.

- **A Compound Sentence.**

A compound sentence has at least two independent clauses. For example:

- Cry "Havoc," and let slip the dogs of war.

- **A Simple Sentence.**

A simple sentence has just one independent clause. For example:

- You can't surprise a man with a dog.

- **A Compound-Complex Sentence.**

A compound-complex sentence has at least two independent clauses and at least one dependent clause. For example:

- When a dog bites a man, **that is not news** because it happens so often, but if a man bites a dog, **that is news**.

**Read examples below and identify what are the four types of sentences:-**

1. Will the teacher be late?
2. He scored a goal.
3. I completed my college application essay.
4. Read this book now.
5. The trip was exciting!
6. Who graduated at the top of a class?
7. Shut the door.
8. What a cute dog!
9. Peanut is better than jam.
10. Brush your teeth.

**State which of the following sentences are compound and which are complex?**

1. The house was destroyed in the fire, but the whole family was saved.
2. Walking through the wood, he saw a fox that was following him.
3. If I do not get this job, I will start a business.
4. He said that he was so disappointed that he would not try again.
5. The men who rule the world with their pens are mightier than those who rule the world with their swords.
6. The evil that men do lives after them.
7. All that glitters is not gold.
8. Neither the color nor the design of this cloth appeals to me.

### **Answers**

1. Compound sentence (Main clause 1 – The house was destroyed in the fire; main clause 2 – but the whole family was saved)
2. Complex sentence (main clause – he saw a fox; subordinate clause – that was following him)
3. Complex sentence (main clause – I will start a business; subordinate clause – if I do not get this job)
4. Complex sentence (main clause – he said; subordinate clause 1 – that he was so disappointed; subordinate clause 2 – that he would not try again)

5. Complex sentence (main clause – the men are mightier; subordinate clause 1 – who rule the world with their pens; subordinate clause 2 – who rule the world with their swords)
6. Complex sentence (main clause – the evil lives after them; subordinate clause – that men do)
7. Complex sentence (main clause – all is not gold; subordinate clause – that glitters)
8. Compound sentence (main clause 1 – neither the design appeals to me; main clause 2 – nor the colour of the cloth appeals to me)

## DAY-5

### Subject and Predicate :-

#### **Simple Subject and Simple Predicate:-**

The subject of a sentence includes the noun or pronoun along with all the words that modify, or describe it. The simple subject is the noun or pronoun all by itself.

*The light blue shirt with the colorful pattern was her favorite top.*

In this sentence "shirt" is the simple subject, and all the descriptive words tell us more about that shirt. The subject is "shirt" and all its modifiers (the light blue shirt with the colorful pattern), but the simple subject is simply "shirt."

The predicate of a sentence is based on the simple predicate, which is the verb. All the other words in the predicate tell more about the subject, and some of the words can modify the verb. In the example above, the word "was" is the verb, and therefore it is the simple predicate.

#### **Compound Subject and Compound Predicate:-**

Sometimes a sentence has a **compound subject**, when there are **two or more nouns** in the subject:

*Bobby and his friends ran outside to play basketball.*

The verb is "ran" and we ask, "who ran?" The answer is "Bobby and his friends" which comprise the subject.

A **compound predicate** includes **two or more verbs** that relate to the subject:

*The little girl picked up her doll and climbed into bed.*

The verbs are "picked up" and "climbed." We ask, "who picked up? who climbed?" The answer is the same for both verbs: "the little girl."

## EXERCISE:

Identify the subject and the predicate in the following sentences.

1. The sun was shining brightly.
2. The dogs were barking loudly.
3. The pretty girl was wearing a blue frock.
4. My younger brother serves in the army.
5. The man and his wife were working in their garden.

Answers

1. The sun (subject) / was shining brightly (predicate).
2. The dogs (subject) / were barking loudly (predicate).
3. The pretty girl (subject) / was wearing a blue frock (predicate).
4. My younger brother (subject) / serves in the army (predicate).
5. The man and his wife (subject) / were working in their garden (predicate).

### Compound Subject and Predicate:-

**Directions:** Indicate whether the sentence has a compound subject or a compound predicate.

1. Jim and Ruth climb rock walls.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
2. Mr. Scott writes and draws on the computer program.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
3. Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse were the creation of Walt Disney.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
4. Our planet revolves around the sun and rotates on its axis.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
5. The A minor chord and the C minor chord sound different.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
6. Dolphins and porpoises have highly developed reasoning abilities.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
7. John Lennon wrote and performed the song "Imagine".  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
8. Asians and Hispanics are minorities in the United States.

- a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
9. Maya Angelou writes poetry and has appeared on many TV shows.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
10. Parentheses and brackets tell us which operation to do first.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
11. Platelets and red blood cells are found in the blood.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
12. Flowers and trees can be found near the capital.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
13. The directions said to recite and repeat until understood.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
14. The principal and the teacher are best friends.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate
15. John selected and paid for the newly released CD.  
a. compound subject    b. compound predicate