



21



202en21

THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

We have all seen neem trees growing near our houses, on roadsides, in parks, in gardens, in forests and even in our own courtyards. Some of us also know a few of its uses. But do you know that the neem is a wonder tree and that every part of it has several useful qualities? Don't you think, then, that it is correct to call it a village pharmacy (a place where medicines are prepared and given out)?



OBJECTIVES

After completing this lesson you will be able to

- identify ways to honour memory of your loved ones;
- appreciate the values of trees and other natural resources in our life;
- recognize the importance of applying traditional knowledge to modern life.
- relate words to situations and use them in context;
- use adjectives of quantity and quality in an appropriate manner;
- identify the active and passive voices and relate to real-life situations;
- write a message; and
- draft a notice.



21.1 LET US READ THE TEXT

Before you read, think:

- *How do you feel when you read about a tragedy in a newspaper?*
- *How would you like to pay your respect to the departed souls?*
- *What do you think about the idea of planting trees in the memory of those who have died?*
- *Have you observed the trees in your neighbourhood? Have you ever thought about their uses?*

THE VILLAGE PHARMACY

It was already six in the evening. Neema, a student of standard VIII, had not yet returned home from school. Iniyavan, her father, a paediatrician at the city hospital, her mother, Vembu and her grandparents who had come from the village were very much worried. Neema entered just then with a sapling in her hand.

All : What happened to you? Why are you so late from school?

Neema : It was a tearful homage that we paid at our school to the ninety four children who died under the most tragic circumstances in Kumbakonam*.

***TRAGEDY AT SCHOOL**

G. SRINIVSAN in Kumbakonam

A school in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, in which 94 children died, raises serious questions about the state of basic education in schools.

Classes were on as usual at the Sri Krishna High School in Kumbakonam in Thanjavour district in Tamil Nadu. In the school kitchen preparations were on to cook the mass noon meal – *rice, sambar*, a side dish and a boiled egg per child. No one noticed a small fire in one corner of the kitchen.

But a strong wind, normal in the month of Aadi (July-August) in the State, seemed to breathe new life into the flames and suddenly they leapt to catch the thatched roof.

Soon smoke filled the rooms and the children ran to the door screaming for help. There was no other escape route as the flames spread. And then the burning thatch fell. Seventy-five children were burnt alive. Of the other 30 who suffered severe burns, 18 died in the hospital.

(Front line Cover Story 13th August 2004, issue 16th July to Aug 13, 2004, frontlineconnect.com)

Vembu : It was a terrible accident!

Grandma : Neema, how did your school children pay homage?



Neema : Grandma, we have planted 94 *neem* saplings in our school campus in memory of the departed souls. We see in the saplings the images of the children whose lives were mercilessly nipped in the bud. I have brought home one sapling to be planted in our garden.



Figure 21.1

Vembu : That's a fitting gesture on the part of your school.

Iniyavan : Yes, I agree. By the way, Neema, do you know that *neem* has a lot of medicinal values?

Neema : No, I don't. I would certainly like to know.

Grandma : I think your grandpa will be the right person to tell you about it. He has lived in the village all his life, and he knows better than anybody else, that it is the "village pharmacy."

Neema : Grandpa, do tell me about the medicinal value of the *neem*. In fact we have a Science exhibition in our school next week. May be our class could prepare something on the '*Neem*.'

Grandpa : It's true that we villagers call the neem tree our 'village pharmacy.' To begin with, look at my teeth. I am eighty. Can you believe? This is thanks to the *neem* twigs that I use to clean my teeth every morning. Look at my skin—still blemish less as a child's. Thanks again to the *neem* paste that I apply regularly. I'm hale and hearty even at eighty. Thanks once again to the *neem* juice that I drink. It purifies the blood and cures all ailments. Do you know what motivated your father to become a doctor? Well, he used to watch my father preparing medicines

paediatrician: a child specialist
 tragic: sad
 homage: honour, respect
 departed: gone away, or dead
 mercilessly: cruelly, without showing any kindness
 sapling: a baby plant
 gesture: (here) an action that expresses something
 medicinal: something which can cure like a medicine
 ailments: sicknesses, diseases, health problems
 blemish: stain or scar
 motivated: created interest



Notes

inflammation: a kind of swelling, sometimes painful

combat: fight

incurable: which can't be treated

panacea: a remedy for all diseases

excavated: dug out

conducted: carried out

eco-friendly: not harmful to the environment

insect repellent: a substance which drives away insects

pesticide: a substance which destroys pests

litter: an untidy collection of objects that lie scattered around

ag r o - f r i e n d l y : something which helps in farming and agriculture

manure: chemical free fertilizer

surrounding: nearby

perennial trees: trees that retain their leaves all the year round, trees that do not shed their leaves

The Village Pharmacy



Figure 21.2

from various parts of the *neem*—its bark, seeds and leaves. That created an interest in ‘medicine’.

Traditionally, in India, the *neem* has been used widely as a medicine, for many centuries. It can fight inflammation, hypertension and ulcers. It can combat diabetes and malaria. Boils, rashes and wounds disappear in no time. You name it and the *neem* cures it. It is a panacea for many ailments. Even as early as 4000-4500 years ago, various parts of the *neem* tree were used in cosmetics and medicinal products by East Indian Harappans. Evidence of these uses exist in the remains excavated at the Harappan site. These days, even toothpaste, soap and shampoo are made from the *neem*.

And, here I must tell you something about Mahatma Gandhi. The prayer meetings at the Sabarmati ashram were conducted under a *Neem* tree and *neem* leaf chutney was a part of his everyday diet. And *Neema*, if you think that the *Neem* has medicinal properties alone, you are mistaken. It also increases the fertility of the soil. Thus it is eco-friendly. It is a good insect repellent. In fact research has proved that its chemical make-up is such that it is resistant to more than two hundred different types of insects. It has also proved to be a good pesticide. *Neem* is thus agro-friendly too. It protects crops from harmful insects, viruses and bacteria. The litter of its fallen leaves is rich in organic content and hence serves as good manure. The *neem* is also an ideal source of timber for carpentry, for it's wood is termite resistant. You would be surprised to know that during the hot summer months, the temperature under the *neem* tree is 10° C less than the surrounding temperature. In fact your air conditioners may not match the healthy cooling effect of the *neem*. Thus it is a ‘free air-cooler service’! These evergreen, perennial trees can grow in any type of soil. They grow very fast. They can reach a height of 30 feet in 5 years. And if they escape your axe, they can survive for even 200 to 300 years. Is that all you want to know, or....

Neema : Oh, grandpa! How blessed I am to be named NEEMA!

Vembu : No wonder the *neem* is known as the ‘wonder tree’ and you’re a wonder girl too!



21.2 LET US UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

21.2.2 PART 1

It was already sixpart of your school.

I'm sure there have been occasions when you have come home late from school and your parents have been worried for you. In the same way, in this lesson, one day Neema's parents and grandparents are worried because Neema is very late. When she finally comes home she tells her family that she and her classmates have planted 94 *neem* saplings in memory of the children who have died in a terrible fire accident in Kumbakonam. That is how she got late. Neema's school has decided to remember the 94 children by planting *neem* trees in their memory.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 21.1

1. Answer the following questions:

1. Fill in the blanks with appropriate words from the text
 - a. Neema was studying in the _____ standard.
 - b. Her father was a _____ by profession.
 - c. Neema came home with a _____ in her hand.
 - d. The fire accident took place in _____ in Tamil Nadu.
 - e. Neema's _____ were visiting her family from the village.
2. Circle the correct meaning of the underlined phrases in the following sentences from among the options given below each sentence.
 - a. The country is paying homage to the dead soldiers today.
 1. showing respect
 2. passing a comment
 3. giving a prize
 4. celebrating
 - b. Sometimes we have to face some tragic circumstances in life.
 1. surprising events
 2. sad events
 3. cause to be angry
 4. occasions.



- c. Her plans to start a business of her own were nipped in the bud when the bank, as well as her friends and relatives refused to give her a loan.
1. changed
 2. postponed
 3. plucked the flower while it was a bud
 4. destroyed at an early stage
- d. When a person dies we pray for the peace of the departed soul.
1. a missing person
 2. a person who has left home
 3. a person who has died
 4. a person who is alive
3. What do you think about the idea of paying homage to loved ones by planting a tree in their memory? Would you plant a tree in memory of a loved one? Why? Answer in about 30 words.



DO YOU KNOW

- In August 2005 a conservation project called *Smritivan* or Forest of Memories was started in Himachal Pradesh in memory of our late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The motto of this project is to “*Plant a tree towards a memory you wish to cherish and help us grow it*”. Many people from Simla and tourists visiting Simla have donated saplings to *Smritivan* in fond memory of their departed loved ones.
- The conservation of biodiversity by planting as many varieties of trees as possible, the involvement and participation of people in development, and the increase of the green cover of Shimla are the main ideas on which *Smritivan* is based.



LET US DO 21.1

30th January is regarded as Martyrs’ Day in our country. On this day, our country pays homage to Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation and other Martyrs who died for the country. A two-minute silence is observed throughout the country at 11 a.m.

Mention some other ways in which people remember their loved ones.



21.2.2 PART 2

Yes, I agree created an interest in medicine.

In the previous unit Neema brings a *neem* sapling to plant in her garden. She shows it to her grandparents. How do Neema’s grandparents react?

Neema’s grandmother tells her that her grandfather has a lot of knowledge about the *neem* tree. Neema gets very excited and wants to know about it. She has a science exhibition in her school, the next week, and thinks that she can use the information to prepare for the exhibition.

Neema’s grandfather uses many *neem* products. He tells her about how good they are for his health and fitness. He also tells her that her father became interested in becoming a doctor because he often watched his grandfather prepare medicines out of the *neem* tree.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 21.2

Answer the following questions:

1. Answer in one or two words only.
 - (a) How old was Neema’s grandfather?
 - (b) What was about to happen in Neema’s school the following week?
 - (c) How did Neema’s grandfather brush his teeth?
 - (d) What did Neema’s grandfather apply on his face ?
2. How did Neema’s father get motivated to become a doctor?
3. Why did the villagers call the *neem* tree ‘the village pharmacy’?
4. In India medicines have traditionally been prepared from plants, herbs, spices and everyday kitchen ingredients. Our mothers and grandmothers know how to prepare some of these medicines at home. They often use such home remedies to cure small health problems and ailments.

Find out at least 2 such home-remedies and record in the table below. One example has been provided.

Remedy	Condition it believes	Whether tried (Y/N)	Whether found effective (Y/N)
1. Honey and ginger Juice	Cough and cold	Yes	Yes
2.			
3.			



DO YOU KNOW

- A lot of diseases have been mentioned in this unit of the lesson. Do you know that many of these diseases have become very common these days due to our modern lifestyle? That is why diseases like hypertension, diabetes, heart-related problems are called **lifestyle diseases**.
- Some other diseases like chicken-pox, malaria, jaundice and measles are **infectious diseases** that can be prevented by paying attention to proper hygiene, vaccination, and timely care.



LET US DO 21.2

The lesson says ‘these days even toothpaste, soap and shampoo are made from the *neem*.’ Look around in the market and try to find a few products in which *neem* is used. Name atleast three such products and paste their pictures on a sheet of paper.

20.2.3 PART-3

Traditionally, in India.....and you’re a wonder girl too.

Neema’s grandfather tells her that *neem* is an insect repellent, a pesticide, an air cooler and a medicine for several diseases. Did you know that the temperature under a *neem* tree is 10 degrees lower than in the surrounding area? *Neem* trees grow very fast, they grow anywhere, in any kind of soil and last for hundreds of years. Neema’s grandfather also tells her how wonderful her name is and that she is a wonderful girl just like the *neem* tree. Let us now find out how *neem* has been used as a medicine for many centuries in India.



INTEXT QUESTIONS 21.3

- I. Answer the following questions:
1. Say whether the following statements are true or false:
 - a) The *neem* tree can fight many diseases.
 - b) A *neem* tree takes very long to grow.
 - c) The *neem* tree provides a very cool shade.
 - d) Neem leaf chutney was part of Gandhiji's diet.
 - e) The *neem* tree reduces the fertility of the soil.
 - f) *Neem* is an evergreen, perennial tree.

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2. The lesson says that the *neem* tree and its leaves are effective as an insecticide and fertilizer. Why is this important? Why do you think it is important to use plant-based products as insecticides and fertilizers. Answer in around 50 words.
3. Neema says, “How blessed I am to be named after the *neem* tree”. Why do you think Neema said that?



LET US TALK 21.1

A construction company wants to cut down some large and old trees for the purpose of setting up a factory outside your village. The village panchayat is unhappy with this proposal and wants to suggest another site for the factory which has no trees. As a member of the village panchayat deliver a talk on ‘Save the Trees in our Neighbourhood’ in the panchayat meeting to convince the village people about why the trees should be saved. Develop your talk with the help of the given points:

- names of the trees
- age of the trees
- special qualities of the trees
- how little resources or efforts are required to maintain and grow the trees
- parts of these trees that are useful to us
- other benefits of keeping the trees
- negative impact or effects of cutting the trees
- both trees and the factory can co-exist.



LET US DO 21.3

Given below is a simple crossword which has to be filled with the names of 8 common trees you often see in India. The first letter of each tree has already been filled in for you. Some clues are also given below to help you in finding out the name of each tree.

1. M _ _ _ _ - This is a tree on which a delicious, yellow, summer fruit grows. The fruit that grows on this tree is a favourite in India, where it is sometimes called the King of Fruits.
2. J _ _ _ _ - This tree bears a sweet, purple, oval shaped fruit.
3. P _ _ _ _ _ - This tree is also called the *Bodhi* tree. It is the tree under which the Buddha became enlightened.
4. P _ _ _ - Dates and coconuts grow on this kind of tree.



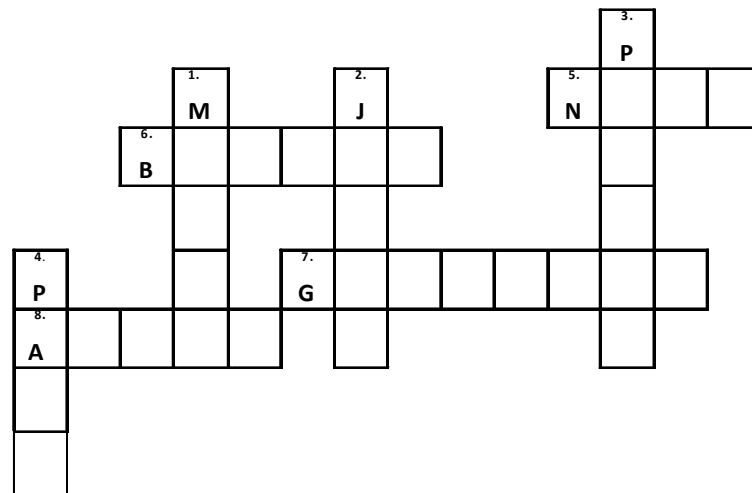
Notes



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5. N _ _ _ - The lesson “The Village Pharmacy” is about this tree.
6. B _ _ _ _ - This tree is called the *Vat* or *Bargad* in India. Its roots grow down from its branches into the soil to form additional trunks.
7. G _ _ _ _ _ - This tree has bright orange-red flowers. It blooms in April-May all over India.
8. A _ _ _ _ - This tree has the same name as a very famous emperor. This emperor became a Buddhist after the Battle of Kalinga and helped to spread Buddhism in India and abroad.



21.3 LET US LEARN GRAMMAR

A. The Active Voice and the Passive Voice

Read the following sentence.

Anita planted a tree.

- This sentence is in the active voice. In the active voice the doer of an action is prominent and important. In this sentence Anita, the doer of the action (planted) is important.

This sentence can be written in the following way as well:

A tree was planted by Anita.

- The above sentence is in the passive voice because here the action (planting) and the object (the tree) are more important than the subject, doer or the person (Anita) who has done it.

Let us look at another sentence.

We have planted 94 saplings in our school. (Active Voice)



94 saplings have been planted in our school. (Passive Voice)

- In the passive voice, the action (have been planted) in the above example is more important than the subject or doer, who is not mentioned. So now we know that in the passive voice the object and the action are important, and the subject may not be mentioned at all.

Let us study the following table to understand the changes that take place while changing active voice into passive voice.

	ACTIVE	PASSIVE
Present Simple	We grow vegetables here	Vegetables are grown by us here.
Present Continuous	We are growing vegetables.	Vegetables are being grown by us.
Present Perfect	We have grown vegetables.	Vegetables have been grown by us.
Past Simple	We grew vegetables.	Vegetables were grown by us.
Past Continuous	We were growing vegetables.	Vegetables were being grown by us.
Past Perfect	We had grown vegetables.	Vegetables had been grown by us.

Now let us look at a paragraph about the *peepal* tree.

Peepal is a large, fast growing tree. It has heart shaped leaves. It sheds its leaves in the months of March and April. It is found in large numbers all over India. The bark of the tree is used for treating a swelling of the neck. The roots are chewed to prevent gum diseases. The powdered fruit is used for treating asthma.

As you can see, the underlined verbs in the paragraph above indicate the passive voice of the sentence. Remember that the passive voice always uses the third form of the verb – hidden, found, used, chewed.

The passive voice is frequently used in notices, newspaper reports, experiments, procedures or processes because in all of these situations the action is important and needs to be highlighted.

Let us read the following newspaper report about the conservation measures taken by the government to protect trees and forests. Since the measures are more important than the doer, the passive voice has been used to highlight them. Since the doer (the government) is understood or taken for granted, it is not mentioned.

Indore

16th Jan 2011

Conservation measures **are being taken** to save the forests of Madhya Pradesh. Local people **are asked** about which trees to plant. Sometimes saplings **are taken** from nurseries and **planted** by the community members. Regular cutting of small branches, twigs and leaves **is done** to make them grow faster. People **are told** about the importance of trees.



Notes

Exercise 1

Change the following sentences from the active voice to the passive voice.

- a. The teacher gave a *neem* sapling to Neema.
- b. Her grandmother opened the door.
- c. Neema showed the sapling to everybody.
- d. She planted it in her garden.
- e. She waters it every day.
- f. Neema uses its twigs to clean her teeth.
- g. Her grandfather makes manure from its fallen leaves.
- h. Neema is taking care of the tree.

B. Adjectives

- An adjective is a word which describes something. It may describe a person, a feeling or emotion, a place, an object, an activity, or a situation. It shows the qualities or quantity of a noun or a pronoun.

Adjectives of Quality

Let us now look at adjectives of quality. Read the following sentences and study the highlighted words.

- Spring is a **magical** season. Trees and bushes offer their **tender** leaves to the **fresh** air and many **delicate** flowers open out into the **warm** sun.

All the highlighted words above are **adjectives of quality**. They are used to describe the spring season. **Adjectives of quality** answer the question 'of what kind'.

Exercise 1

Identify the **adjectives of quality** in the following paragraph by underlining them.

The apple is one of the most loved fruit trees and it has a lot of friends in birds and children who like to eat its fruits. During the spring the apple tree gets covered in delicate pink flowers which fill everyone's heart with a promise. In the autumn the branches are laden with many red apples. Children and birds come looking for the juicy fruits. Apples can be eaten raw or cooked and made into sweet desserts. Whatever way you choose to eat it, an apple is always good for you.



Adjectives of Quantity

Let us now look at **adjectives of quantity**. Adjectives of quantity are used to describe the number or quantity of something.

Read the following passage and study the highlighted words:

All trees have **many** leaves. The purpose of **most** leaves is to produce food through photosynthesis. Trees live for **hundreds** of years. The oldest tree in the world is more than **five thousand** years old. Trees take a long time to grow but sadly **millions** of trees in the world have been cut for development.

Adjectives of quantity are used to show how much or how many of an item or an object are being talked about. Words like some, little, few, many, half, enough are some examples of adjectives of quantity.

Exercise 2

Fill in the blanks with suitable options from the words given below. Do not forget to capitalize the first letter of every sentence.

enough, any, some, no, half, all

- _____ the trees in my garden have been planted by my grandfather, and the other half by my grandmother.
- _____ of my friends don't like to eat fruits, but I love them.
- There has not been _____ rain this year.
- There are _____ mistakes in your maths paper. You scored 100% in maths.
- _____ the apples I bought at that shop were rotten. I will never go there again to buy anything.
- These days we don't eat _____ healthy food.



21.4 LET US WRITE

A. Writing a Notice

A notice is meant to give information to a large number of people. The members of a colony, school children as well as their parents can all be informed through notices. A notice is generally put up on the notice-board of a community hall, school building, library or a public space. Let us read the following notice:

**NIOS Study Centre, Chennai**Notice
Science Exhibition

5 August 20XX

Students of Secondary Classes are hereby informed that a Science Exhibition is being held on 20th August 2011 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the study centre. The theme is *Trees of India*. Working models, charts, projects are all welcome. All entries should be submitted to the undersigned by 17th August at the science club.

Shanthi

Science Club Secretary

The main features of a notice are:

- name of the school/organization
- heading
- date
- who is being informed
- what is the event
- details of the event (where and when)
- what the participants are expected to do
- signature of issuing authority
- the passive voice

Let us now write a notice on the following topic.

Exercise 1

Your colony is holding a 'Polio Awareness Campaign' on the occasion of Independence Day. Write a notice to be put up at the local community centre informing people about it. They may bring their children aged five years or below for the polio vaccination.

B. Message Writing

Sometimes when we have to convey something important to a person who may not be there, we may leave a written message for him/her. Messages should be short, and should convey all the important information clearly.

The Village Pharmacy



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Let us look at an example of a message.

1st July 20XX

Dear Mother,

I will be late in coming home from the study centre today. I have an extra science class from 2 p.m to 4 p.m. Do not worry about me, I will come home with Suresh.

Name

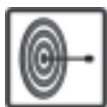
Exercise 2

Now let us write a message with the help of the following inputs:

Message from Sanjay to Sana

- Sana absent from school today
- Science test to be held the next day
- The teacher wants to check the notebook also

Note: For more tips on **Message Writing** refer to **Let Us Write** in the lesson ‘Stealing and Atonement’.



WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT

In this lesson, you learnt how useful *neem* trees are. The message of this lesson is that we should be aware of the treasure house of Nature around us. If we are aware of it then we can use trees like the *neem* for several purposes. We can even plant trees around us in the memory of our loved ones. Nature and the environment are very useful for us in many different ways and we should respect and protect them.



TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. This lesson is titled ‘The Village Pharmacy’. Do you think this is an appropriate title? Why?
2. Neema’s grandfather had a lot of knowledge about the *neem* tree. List at least 10 things that he told Neema about the *neem* tree.
3. You have read about the many uses of *Neem*. Would you like to start using *neem* products? Are you inspired to use more natural products like *neem*? Give reasons for your answer.



Notes

4. Do you know that besides *neem*, there are many other trees around us which are very useful? Find out about two more such trees and write at least 3 ways in which each of them can be used.
5. Match the parts of a *neem* tree with their uses given below.

Parts of a neem tree

Uses

bark, seeds, leaves
twigs
fallen leaves/litter
neem wood/timber
neem juice

organic manures
medicines
blood purifier
to clean the teeth
carpentry

6. Choose the correct word/ phrase from the given options to fill in the blanks.
agro friendly, eco friendly, organic content, termite resistant, air cooler, insect repellent
- a) If you mix neem oil in paint, the wood becomes.....
- b) In the summers, wet khus curtains or blinds serve as an
- c) These days, there are severalproducts available in the market.
- d) Decayed vegetable matter increases the fertility and of the soil.
- e) Cow dung, ash are all products and can be safely used for protecting plants from pests.
- f) Rubbing mustard oil mixed with *neem* oil on the body works like an.....



ANSWERS

21.2.1 PART 1

INTEXT QUESTIONS 21.1

- I. 1. (a) VIII (b) doctor/paediatrician (c) *neem* sapling
(d) Kumbakonam (e) grandparents
2. (a)1 (b)2 (c)4 (d) 3
3. Individual responses

Suggested response:

Yes it is a good idea .When we grow a tree in someone’s memory, it always reminds us of that person. It also helps in growing more trees, which is useful for us and for the environment.



Notes

- (b) The door was opened by her grandmother.
- (c) The sapling was shown to everybody by Neema.
- (d) It was planted by her in her garden.
- (e) It is watered everyday.
- (f) Its twigs are used by Neema to clean her teeth .
- (g) Manure is made from its fallen leaves by her grandfather.
- (h) The tree is being taken care of by Neema.

B. Exercise 1

most loved, delicate pink, red, juicy, raw, cooked, sweet, good

Exercise 2

- (a) Half (b) Some (c) any (d) no (e) All (f) enough

TERMINAL QUESTIONS

1. It is an appropriate title because a pharmacy is a place where one gets medicines of various kinds. In the same way the *neem* tree provides cures for several kinds of diseases. For the village people it is the safe and easy answer to several of their common health problems.
2. It is a medicine for several diseases.

It has been used since ancient times for several purposes .It is used to purify the blood and clear the skin. It purifies the air around it. Its wood is termite resistant. It is an insect repellent; it is eco-friendly as well. It is being used to make soaps, shampoos, and oils.
3. Individual responses.
4. Individual responses.
5. bark, seeds, leaves - medicines
twigs - to clean teeth
fallen leaves/litter - organic manure
neem wood/timber – carpentry
neem juice – blood purifier
6. (a) termite resistant (b) air cooler (c) eco-friendly (d) organic content (e) agro friendly (f) insect repellent