CBSE NCERT · Class 11 · English Core

English Core

ORIGINAL STUDY COMPANION
PADIKAM
CLASS 11 | ALL STREAMS
English Core: Skills, Hornbill and
Snapshots
CBSE / NCERT core lessons | Academic year 2026-27
24 chapter lessons
Quick explanations, core points, exam practice and chapter-specific notation in one
consistent format.
Padikam explanations are independently written. Official textbooks are used as the coverage map, chapter sequence and terminology
reference.

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Study rhythm
Read the quick explanation, recall the core points aloud, then answer the prompts without looking
back. Use the official textbook links for full prescribed readings, activities and diagrams.
Textbook and verification links
1. https://cbseacademic.nic.in/web_material/CurriculumMain27/SecPart2/English_core_SecP2_2026-27.pdf
2. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?kehb1=0-14
3. https://ncert.nic.in/textbook.php?kesp1=0-8

CHAPTER 01
Reading 1: Unseen Passage

Quick understanding
Read an unfamiliar factual, descriptive or literary passage by tracking its purpose, structure, evidence and implied meaning.
Core points Check your learning
Preview the title and paragraph pattern before answering. Identify the central claim and two supporting details.
Base every inference on a textual clue. Explain an inference with evidence from the passage.
Use context, word formation and contrast to infer vocabulary.
One-line recall Preview the title and paragraph pattern before answering.
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CHAPTER 02
Reading 2: Case-based Passage
Quick understanding
Interpret prose together with a chart, table or other visual input and combine both sources accurately.
Core points Check your learning
Check labels, units, scale and sample before comparing values. Write two evidence-based observations from a chart.
A trend describes movement; a cause needs evidence. Identify a misleading conclusion and correct it.
Test each option against both the passage and the visual.
One-line recall Check labels, units, scale and sample before comparing values.
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CHAPTER 03
Reading 3: Note-making and Summary
Quick understanding
Compress a passage into a clear hierarchy of ideas, then express its essence in a brief connected summary.
Core points Check your learning
Use a precise title, headings, subheadings and consistent numbering. Turn a 200-word passage into structured notes.
Abbreviations save space but need a key. Write a 50-word summary without examples or repetition.
The summary must be in fresh language and stay within 50 words.
One-line recall Use a precise title, headings, subheadings and consistent numbering.
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CHAPTER 04
Grammar 1: Tenses and Clauses
Quick understanding
Choose tense and clause structures that express time, sequence and relationships between ideas accurately.
Core points Check your learning
Tense is controlled by meaning and time reference, not by one nearby word. Complete a contextual tense passage.
Identify and rewrite noun, relative and adverb clauses. Relative, noun and adverb clauses perform different jobs.
Check subject-verb agreement after completing a gap.

One-line recall Tense is controlled by meaning and time reference, not by one nearby word.
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CHAPTER 05
Grammar 2: Reordering and Transformation
Quick understanding
Build coherent sentences from jumbled parts and change structure without changing meaning.
Core points Check your learning
Locate the subject and finite verb first. Reorder five sentence sets.
Connectors reveal cause, contrast, condition and Transform simple, compound and
sequence. complex sentences.
Transformation must preserve tense, reference and
emphasis.
One-line recall Locate the subject and finite verb first.
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CHAPTER 06
Writing 1: Classified Advertisement
Quick understanding
Write a compact advertisement that communicates purpose, essential details and contact information
within the word limit.
Core points Check your learning
Use a clear category heading. Draft a situation-vacant advertisement.
Prefer phrases and abbreviations to long sentences. Draft a sale or accommodation
advertisement in 50 words.
Include only decision-making details and a safe
contact line.
One-line recall Use a clear category heading.
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CHAPTER 07
Writing 2: Poster
Quick understanding
Combine a commanding headline, concise message and visual hierarchy to motivate a specific
audience.
Core points Check your learning
The title and slogan must be visible first. Design a poster for water conservation.
Include issuer, occasion or action details where Evaluate a poster for clarity, audience
needed. and call to action.
Every line should support one central message.
One-line recall The title and slogan must be visible first.
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CHAPTER 08
Writing 3: Speech
Quick understanding
Address a real audience with a clear position, organised reasoning and a memorable opening and
close.
Core points Check your learning
Begin with salutation and purpose. Write a speech on responsible use of AI.
Use examples, rhetorical questions and signposting Turn a list of points into a coherent
naturally. speech.
End with a practical appeal or conclusion.
One-line recall Begin with salutation and purpose.
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CHAPTER 09
Writing 4: Debate
Quick understanding
Argue for or against a motion by stating a position, developing evidence and responding to the opposing view.
Core points Check your learning
Address the chair and announce the side clearly. Prepare a debate on online learning.
A rebuttal answers a likely counterargument. Write one claim, counterclaim and rebuttal for a motion.
Strong claims need reasons or examples.
One-line recall Address the chair and announce the side clearly.
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CHAPTER 10
Hornbill: The Portrait of a Lady
Quick understanding
Khushwant Singh remembers his grandmother through changing stages of companionship, distance and enduring affection.
Core points Check your learning
Village life joins grandmother and child through routine and faith.
Trace the changing relationship.
Explain the significance of the sparrows.
The city and English education gradually separate their worlds.
Her final silence and the sparrows create a dignified image of death and mourning.
Literary craft
Autobiographical portrait
Contrast between village and city
Symbolism and restrained emotion
One-line recall Village life joins grandmother and child through routine and faith.
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CHAPTER 11
Hornbill Poem: A Photograph
Quick understanding
Shirley Toulson studies an old beach photograph and measures three moments: childhood joy, a mother's later laughter and the poet's present loss.
Core points Check your learning
The photograph preserves a moment that time has removed.
Explain the three time layers.
Analyse the sea and silence as images.
The sea appears constant beside mortal human lives.
The closing silence suggests grief beyond speech.
Literary craft
Free verse
Visual imagery
Contrast, transferred epithet and paradoxical silence
One-line recall The photograph preserves a moment that time has removed.
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CHAPTER 12
Hornbill: We're Not Afraid to Die... if We Can All Be

Together
Quick understanding
A family and crew survive a violent storm through preparation, repair work, shared courage and emotional unity.
Core points Check your learning
The voyage becomes a crisis when enormous waves damage the boat.
Sequence the emergency response.
Show how courage is presented as sustain action.
Technical decisions matter, but hope and teamwork collective rather than solitary.
The children's trust gives the adults moral strength.
Literary craft
First-person adventure narrative
Technical detail
Suspense and direct speech
One-line recall The voyage becomes a crisis when enormous waves damage the boat.

CHAPTER 13
Hornbill: Discovering Tut: The Saga Continues
Quick understanding
Scientific investigation of Tutankhamun's mummy meets the fascination, uncertainty and ethical questions surrounding the young pharaoh.
Core points Check your learning
Modern imaging can examine remains without traditional dissection.
Explain the purpose of the CT scan.
Discuss the balance between science and respect for the dead.
Evidence corrects some stories but cannot remove every uncertainty.
The chapter contrasts ancient burial belief with modern curiosity.
Literary craft
Journalistic feature
Historical reconstruction
Irony and scientific description
One-line recall Modern imaging can examine remains without traditional dissection.

CHAPTER 14
Hornbill Poem: The Laburnum Top
Quick understanding
Ted Hughes turns a silent tree into a scene of sudden energy when a goldfinch arrives to feed its young and then departs.
Core points Check your learning
The opening stillness makes the arrival vivid.
Describe the movement from silence to activity and back.
The bird is compared with a quick, precise machine.
Explain the engine metaphor.
After the goldfinch leaves, silence returns but the tree has been transformed.
Literary craft
Nature lyric
Simile and metaphor
Sound, colour and movement imagery
One-line recall The opening stillness makes the arrival vivid.

CHAPTER 15
Hornbill Poem: The Voice of the Rain
Quick understanding
Walt Whitman imagines rain speaking about its endless cycle from earth to sky and back as a life-giving song.
Core points Check your learning
Rain rises invisibly, forms and returns to its origin. Explain the rain-song analogy.
Its return cleans, nourishes and completes a natural Trace the water cycle through the poem.
cycle.
The comparison with song links nature and art.
Literary craft
Personification
Dialogue form
Metaphor and cyclical structure
One-line recall Rain rises invisibly, forms and returns to its origin.

CHAPTER 16
Hornbill Poem: Childhood
Quick understanding
Markus Natten asks when childhood disappeared and locates maturity in independent thought, recognition of adult contradiction and awareness of self.
Core points Check your learning
The repeated question organises the search for a Explain the three possible moments of
turning point. loss.
Logical awareness challenges literal childhood Analyse the final image.
beliefs.
The final answer places childhood in an infant's
innocent face.
Literary craft
Rhetorical questions
Repetition
Reflective free verse
One-line recall The repeated question organises the search for a turning point.

CHAPTER 17
Hornbill: The Adventure
Quick understanding
Jayant Narlikar uses an alternate history to ask how one changed event could produce a different political world.
Core points Check your learning
Professor Gaitonde enters a reality where the Compare the two historical timelines.
Marathas won Panipat.
Explain how science and history support
Historical documents inside that world make the the plot.
impossible appear systematic.
Catastrophe theory and quantum possibility provide
a speculative explanation.
Literary craft
Alternate-history fiction
Frame narrative
Counterfactual reasoning and irony

One-line recall Professor Gaitonde enters a reality where the Marathas won Panipat.
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CHAPTER 18
Hornbill: Silk Road
Quick understanding
Nick Middleton's journey toward Mount Kailash combines difficult terrain, physical discomfort, cultural encounters and anticipation of pilgrimage.
Core points Check your learning
Altitude and weather make the landscape physically demanding. Describe the effect of altitude on the journey.
Tibetan settlements and people are observed without romantic simplification. Analyse the portrait of Norbu or Tsetan.
The narrator's humour balances risk and uncertainty.
Literary craft
Travel writing
First-person observation
Humour, dialogue and landscape imagery
One-line recall Altitude and weather make the landscape physically demanding.
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CHAPTER 19
Hornbill Poem: Father to Son
Quick understanding
Elizabeth Jennings presents a father and son who share a home and history but cannot recover emotional communication.
Core points Check your learning
The father admits that he does not understand the person his son has become. Explain the communication gap.
Analyse the seed and empty-hand images of seed and land question belonging and responsibility.
Both desire reconciliation, yet anger and grief block it.
Literary craft
Dramatic monologue
Extended metaphor
Repetition and unresolved ending
One-line recall The father admits that he does not understand the person his son has become.
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CHAPTER 20
Snapshots: The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse
Quick understanding
Two Armenian-American boys briefly keep a horse while trying to reconcile delight, family honour and the fact that it belongs to someone else.
Core points Check your learning
Aram admires Mourad's wild imagination and skill. Explain Mourad's idea of borrowing.
The Garoghlanian reputation for honesty makes the theft morally complicated. Show how family identity shapes the conflict.
Returning the horse restores honour without destroying wonder.
Literary craft

First-person childhood narrative
Humour
Irony and cultural characterisation
One-line recall Aram admires Mourad’s wild imagination and skill.
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CHAPTER 21
Snapshots: The Address
Quick understanding
Awoman returning after war finds her family’s possessions in a stranger’s house and decides that memory cannot be recovered through objects alone.
Core points Check your learning
Mrs Dorling had taken belongings for supposed safekeeping. Explain why the narrator does not reclaim the objects.
Familiar objects become disturbing in an unfamiliar room. Analyse possessions as symbols of loss.
Leaving the address behind becomes an act of emotional survival.
Literary craft
Post-war short story
Understatement
Symbolism and non-linear memory
One-line recall Mrs Dorling had taken belongings for supposed safekeeping.
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CHAPTER 22
Snapshots: Mother's Day
Quick understanding
J. B. Priestley’s comic play uses a temporary exchange of personalities to confront a family that takes the mother’s labour for granted.
Core points Check your learning
Mrs Pearson’s kindness has allowed disrespect to become routine. Trace the changes in the Pearson family.
Evaluate the personality-exchange
Mrs Fitzgerald’s firmness exposes each family member’s selfishness. device.
Comedy delivers a serious argument about dignity and shared responsibility.
Literary craft
One-act comedy
Role reversal
Dramatic irony and brisk dialogue
One-line recall Mrs Pearson’s kindness has allowed disrespect to become routine.
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CHAPTER 23
Snapshots: Birth
Quick understanding
Ayoung doctor moves from personal anxiety to intense professional action as he revives a newborn who appears lifeless.
Core points Check your learning
Andrew must care for the exhausted mother and the baby. Describe Andrew’s decision-making under pressure.
Observation and persistence lead him to alternate hot and cold water and artificial respiration. Explain the title beyond the physical event.

The successful birth gives his work immediate
meaning.
Literary craft
Medical realism
Suspense
Internal conflict and climactic release
One-line recall Andrew must care for the exhausted mother and the baby.
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CHAPTER 24
Snapshots: The Tale of Melon City
Quick understanding
Vikram Seth's comic poem shows an absurd legal system following procedure until a melon is crowned king.
Core points Check your learning
The king's demand for rigid justice turns Explain the satire on justice and
responsibility into farce. government.
Each accused person passes blame to another. Analyse the final attitude of the citizens.
Citizens accept any ruler as long as daily life remains
undisturbed.
Literary craft
Narrative verse
Satire and absurdity
Rhyme, repetition and circular blame
One-line recall The king's demand for rigid justice turns responsibility into farce.
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