

UNIT 10

TWO OF A KIND

Adapted from: *The Ventures by O' Henry*

Students Learning Outcomes:

On completion of the unit, students will be able to:

- answer the comprehension questions.
- analyze the effect of irony in communication.
- follow the order of adjectives in sentences.
- identify and use the adjective phrases and clauses.

Pre-reading:

- Have you ever been in any unexpected situation? Discuss.

(Two rich men in search of excitement dined at an expensive restaurant. They had only two pennies between them.)

John Reginald Forster was bored. He was sitting in his club in New York city, where he usually came late in the afternoon to have a drink before going to dinner. Suddenly he got up and left the room. He got his hat and walked out to the street. He felt he had to go away, somewhere. He wanted to meet someone who felt like he did.

At the end of an hour's walk, Forster stood at the corner of a wide avenue, looking across it at an old hotel. Softly but beautifully lighted. He had to eat somewhere, but it was no adventure to eat in that hotel. He knew it. He knew how delightful the food was and how quick and attentive the waiters would be. The dinner would be perfect, and he was so tired of perfect things!

Suppose he were to go to some cheap or even dangerous place far downtown? Something might happen there; there might be a question without an answer, a surprise for him. But he would need money. He began to search his pockets. He felt in every one of the pockets of his dark business suit, but he did not find a penny. He had a chequebook, and a bankbook showing more than ten thousand dollars, but he had no money at all in his pockets.

A man nearby was watching Forster with amusement. He looked like any thirty-year-old businessman waiting for a bus.

"Nothing at all?" asked the man, coming nearer.

"Seems that way," said Forster. "Now, I thought there was a dollar in..."

"I know," said the other man with a laugh. "But it wasn't there. I had the same



experience myself just a few minutes ago. I looked in my pockets and found exactly two pennies. What kind of dinner will two pennies buy?"

"You haven't had dinner, then?" asked Forster.

"No. But I would like to. Now, I'll suggest something to you. You look like a man who would take a chance. Your clothes look proper and respectable. And I think I can get into a good restaurant, too. Let's go over to the hotel across the street and have dinner together. Let's choose like rich man – or, like rather poor gentlemen who are having an expensive dinner for a special occasion. When we have finished, we will toss one of my two pennies to see which of us will go to the head waiter and tell him the truth - that we don't have any money at all. My name is Ives."

"Fine," said Forster joyfully, happy to share in an adventure at last. "My name is Forster."

The two men were soon seated at a corner table in the hotel dining-room. Ives ordered the dinner. He began to name soft drinks and dishes with the calm care of one who knew good food and drink. Forster, listening, gave admiring approval of the order.

While eating the soup, Ives said, "I'm a man who has spent his life searching for the unexpected thing. What I want is an adventure in which I cannot tell what is going to happen. The world now is so dull that there is almost nothing you can begin without knowing what the end will be. I don't want to know anything; I don't want to reason about anything; I just want to do something without knowing what will happen next."

"I understand," said Forster with delight. "You put into words what I have often felt. I want to take chances on what's coming."

"Good," said Ives. "The restaurant will be even angrier with you for that. But to return to what we were saying ... I returned to New York after travelling for three years around the world. In other countries, everything is just the way it is here. I've tried shooting dangerous animals in Africa. I know that I can kill them.. It feels about as exciting as staying after school to do extra work."

"I know," repeated Forster. "I've felt it all. I haven't seen the world as you have, but we agree. You know, I'm grateful for this little adventure of ours tonight. There will be at least one breathless moment when the bill for the dinner is presented. So, let's see which of us will tell the waiter that we have only two pennies."

He threw up one penny. "Head or tail?" he asked.

"Head," called Ives.

"Heads it is," answered Forster, looking at the penny. "I lose. I suggest when

the waiter comes, you say that you have to telephone a friend. I will stay and look at the bill long enough for you to get your hat and go. Thank you for such a strange evening, Mr. Ives. I wish we could have others."

"I believe that the nearest police station is on McDougal Street," said Ives, sighing. "I've enjoyed the dinner, too."

Forster motioned to the waiter, who came to the table and laid the bill by Forster's coffee cup. Forster took it and added the figures with care. Ives leaned back comfortably in his chair.

"Excuse me," said Forster, "but I thought you were going to call Grimes about that play for Thursday night. Have you forgotten it?"

"Oh," said Ives, setting himself more comfortably, "I can do that later. Get me a glass of water, waiter."

"You want to be here when I'm arrested, do you?" asked Forster.

"I hope you don't mind," said Ives. "Never in my life have I seen a gentleman arrested in a public restaurant for not paying the bill."

The waiter came back with the glass of water and remained, looking silently down at the two men, Forster hesitated for a few moment, and then took a pencil from his pocket and wrote his name on the bill. The waiter bowed and took it away.

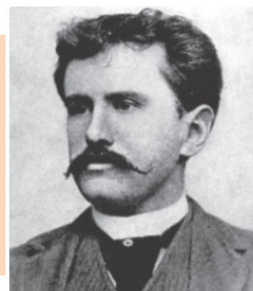
"You see," said Forester with a little laugh, "I have to confess something. I've been having dinner at this hotel two or three times a week for more than a year. I always sign my bills and pay by the month."

"But," he added, "it was kind of you to stay with me when you know I had no money, and you might have been arrested, too."

"I must confess too," said Ives. "I own the hotel."

About the Author

O' Henery (Pseud. Of William Sidney Ponter), (1862-1910) U.S.A short story writer; known for the ironic twist with which his stories characteristically end.



Reading and Thinking Skills:

1. Answer the following questions.

- i) Who were Forster and Ives in the story? What did they want?
- ii) "Your clothes look proper and respectable", what is meant by proper and respectable?

- iii) Who was going to pay for the adventure?
- iv) How are they going to pay the bill for an expensive dinner?
- v) What are the two rich men in search of?
- vi) Why didn't Ives leave, as agreed, when the bill was presented?
- vii) What was the purpose of asking for a glass of water?
- viii) What did the two men have in common?
- ix) What is ironic twist in the story?
- x) Who was going to pay the bill at the end?

2. Choose the correct answer.

- i) How much money Forster had in his pocket?
 - (a) two pennies.
 - (b) one dollar.
 - (c) no money.
 - (d) two pounds.
- ii) Who was going to the head waiter to tell the truth that they had no money?
 - (a) Mr. Ives.
 - (b) Mr. Forster.
 - (c) both of them.
 - (d) no one.
- iii) When they threw up the coin, who had lost the bet?
 - (a) Mr. Ives.
 - (b) Mr. Forster.
 - (c) Neither of them.
 - (d) both of them sneaked away.
- iv) When the waiter came, what happened?
 - (a) Ives paid the bill.
 - (b) Forster took a pencil and wrote his name on the bill.
 - (c) The waiter called for police.
 - (d) Ives and Forster were arrested.
- v) Who was the owner of the hotel?
 - (a) Forster.
 - (b) Ives.
 - (c) Neither of them.
 - (d) Forster's Father.

- vi) Forster knew how delightful the food was and how quick
 - (a) the manager would be.
 - (b) the waitress would be.
 - (c) the cooks would be.
 - (d) and attentive the waiters would be.
- vii) The two men were soon seated at a corner table
 - (a) in the hotel dining-room.
 - (b) in the lawn.
 - (c) in the room.
 - (d) in the canteen.
- viii) Forster threw up
 - (a) one penny.
 - (b) one bottle.
 - (c) one cup.
 - (d) two pennies.
- ix) Ives, setting himself more comfortable, said,
 - (a) "Get me a soft drink, waiter."
 - (b) "Get me a soft drink, waitress."
 - (c) "Get me a glass of milk, waiter."
 - (d) "Get me a glass of water, waiter."
- x) Forster took a pencil from his pocket and
 - (a) wrote his name on the bill.
 - (b) wrote his brother's name on the bill.
 - (c) wrote his account number.
 - (d) wrote his bank's name.

Critical Thinking:

- Why were the two men pretending to be poor in the story?

Writing Skills:

Give an account of the little adventure Ives and Forster had?

Research Project

Collect information from different sources and write a research report on the following question.

- *What are the causes and impacts of deforestation?*

Grammar:

ADJECTIVES

Position and Order of Adjective

Usually, adjectives precede a noun. There are three common positions.

- Ahmed has just bought *new* cotton dress.
- The sky was quite *red* yesterday.
- Your father looks *happy* this morning.

When two or more adjectives are used before a noun, they are often put in this order:

- | | | |
|------------|---------------------|--------------|
| i) size | ii) age/temperature | iii) shape |
| iv) colour | v) origin | vi) material |

Example

- A small red doll.
- A new blue German car.

Activity:

Find the correct order of adjective.

- young interesting man.
- large beautiful table.
- a thin tall girl.
- a black small plastic bag.
- a Russian old song.
- a wooden large beautiful round Pakistani table.
- A pair of leather black shoes.
- A big square blue box.
- Little blue, green and white house.
- A big, American, white dog.

Adjective Phrase

When a group of words without subject and predicate performs the function of an adjective, it is called adjective phrase.

Examples:

- i) He is a man *of great honesty*.
- ii) She is a girl *with loving nature*.

Adjective Clause

An adjective clause is a clause which does the work of an adjective.

Example:

- i) This is the pen *which he gifted me*.
- ii) The time *when the train will arrive* is 10 o'clock.
- iii) Do you remember the time *when we missed the train*?

Activities:

1. Underline the adjective phrases in the following sentences.

- i) The lady in the back of the car is Noreen.
- ii) The dog with the long tail belongs to Nasir.
- iii) I did not pick up the wallet lying on the floor.
- iv) The runner in the rear did not qualify.
- v) Everyone was extremely delighted when the winner was announced.
- vi) Eating out is usually not very healthy.
- vii) The movie was getting scarier and scarier.
- viii) I love the taste of a sweet juicy peach.
- ix) Something in the corner was moving.
- x) It was cold, bleak, biting weather.

2. Underline the adjective clauses in the following sentences:

- i) The lady who is sitting in the back of the car is Noreen.
- ii) I picked up a wallet which was lying on the floor.
- iii) The dog that has a long tail belongs to Javed.
- iv) The runner who was last did not qualify.
- v) Pizza, which most people love, is not a very healthy food.
- vi) Students who are intelligent get good grades.
- vii) The people whose names are on the list will go to the camp.
- viii) Eco-friendly cars that run on electricity save gas.
- ix) The boy, whose father is a principal, is my friend.
- x) Fruit that is grown organically is expensive.

Revision 6 - 10

Reading and Thinking Skills:

1. Answer the following questions.

- i) Why do trust and understanding hold great importance in any relationships?
- ii) Why does the poet not give importance to physical beauty?
- iii) What was Vanka's promise to do for his grandfather?
- iv) What were the things which made Vanka unhappy?
- v) Why is letter writing different from other styles of writings?
- vi) "The labour of extracting these essays is Herculean." What does it mean?
- vii) Why didn't Ives leave, as agreed, when the bill was presented?
- viii) What sort of bond do the skylark and its family have?
- ix) How is a skylark better than a nightingale?
- x) What was the purpose of asking for a glass of water?

2. Choose the correct answer.

- i) When the poet says, "Love is not love which alters when it alteration finds," he means:
 - (a) love changes with each change in an object of affection.
 - (b) true love endures in spite of changes in circumstances and appearance.
 - (c) a love that endures is worthless.
 - (d) love can be altered to fit any situation.
- ii) How can you tell that this poem is a sonnet?
 - (a) it is lyrical and uses figurative language.
 - (b) none of the lines rhymed.
 - (c) it consists of fourteen lines and follows a strict rhyme scheme and specific structure.
 - (d) none of the above
- iii) What is the suggestion of the author?
 - (a) In writing one should use bombastic words.

- (b) One should not be sincere when we write an essay.
- (c) One should use simple words and one word would normally suffice instead of using two or three words.
- (d) None of the above.
- iv) The characteristic of journalism is
 - (a) constant overemphasis.
 - (b) happiness.
 - (c) sadness.
 - (d) constant emphasis.
- v) Who taught Vanka to read and write?
 - (a) His father.
 - (b) His mother.
 - (c) Miss Olga.
 - (d) His grandfather.
- vi) Why did Vanka go to Moscow?
 - (a) to become a mechanic.
 - (b) to be apprenticed to Aliakin as a shoe maker.
 - (c) to learn the trade of a plumber.
 - (d) to study medicine.
- vii) The Skylark is
 - (a) the lark that sings while soaring.
 - (b) a kind of beast.
 - (c) an aquatic animal.
 - (d) none of the above.
- viii) What is the fact about the Skylark?
 - (a) It is a small bird that nests in a hole in the ground.
 - (b) A bird that makes nest in a tree.
 - (c) A bird that lays eggs in other birds nests.
 - (d) It is a mammal.
- ix) When they threw up the coin, who had lost the bet?
 - (a) Mr. Ives.
 - (b) Mr. Forster.
 - (c) Neither of them.
 - (d) Both of them sneaked away.
- x) The sonnet CXVI is written by
 - (a) John Keats.
 - (b) William Shakespeare.

- (c) William Blake.
(d) William Wordsworth.

3. Mark the sentences as True or False.

- i) Aliakin was a shoemaker. (T/F)
 ii) Vanka had three dogs. (T/F)
 iii) The Skylark sings melodious songs. (T/F)
 iv) 'Aspire' means strive and rise higher. (T/F)
 v) Forster and Ives did not have enough money in their pockets. (T/F)
 vi) The characteristic of journalism is sadness. (T/F)
 vii) A man's writing style should be like his dress. (T/F)
 viii) Miss Olga was Vanka's mother. (T/F)
 ix) Skylark and nightingale are same birds. (T/F)
 x) Forster was the owner of the hotel. (T/F)

Critical Thinking:

4. Why did Forester and Ives hide their identity from each other?
 5. Write a letter of complaint to railway station master about cancellation of your reservation without any intimation.
 6. Write an application for the job of computer programmer in a Software Company.
 7. Write antonyms of the following words.

Words	Antonyms	Words	Antonyms
intelligent	_____	ugly	_____
brave	_____	famous	_____
hire	_____	major	_____
quiet	_____	noisy	_____
pessimist	_____	fast	_____

8. Change the following conditional sentences into the given type.

- i) If you work hard you will succeed. (Type II)
ii) If he came I would go with him. (Type I)
iii) If she had a pen she would give it to you. (Type III)
iv) If you called I would attend it. (Type I)
v) If I (am) the minister of education, I (reform)
the examination system. (Type I, II, III)
vi) If you play tricks on people, they _____ not
trust you again. (Type I)
vii) If you _____ asked me to lend you some
money, I _____ been happy to help you. (Type-III)
viii) If I won a million rupees in a lottery, _____ (Type II)

9. Write the missing degree of the given adjectives.

Positive degree	Comparative degree	Superlative degree
suitable	_____	_____
high	_____	_____
liberal	_____	_____
bad	_____	_____
good	_____	_____
slow	_____	_____
genius	_____	_____
generous	_____	_____