



Subject: English

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Lesson 3

Topic : Gopal & The Hilsa Fish

**\* Pre-activity**

**Write down the recipe of your favourite dish.**

**Answer the following questions.**

1. Why did the king want no more talk about the Hilsa fish?

A) Everyone around the king was talking about Hilsa fish. This had infuriated the king so he didn't want anyone to talk about the Hilsa fish.

2. What did the king ask Gopal to do to prove that he was clever?

A) The king asked Gopal to buy a huge Hilsa fish from the market and to ensure that no one should talk to him about the fish on the entire way from the market to the palace.

3. What three things did Gopal do before he went to buy his Hilsa fish?

A) Gopal half-shaved his face. Smearred ash on his body himself and wore rugs before going out to buy Hilsa fish.

4. How did Gopal get inside the palace to see the king after he had bought the fish?

A) Gopal started singing and dancing in front of the palace at a loud voice. The king heard the noise and asked the man to be brought inside.

5. Explain why no one seemed to be interested in talking about the Hilsa fish which Gopal had bought.

A) No one was interested about the Hilsa fish. Gopal had bought because of Gopal's condition. He was wearing rugs, his face was half-shaven and ash was smearred over his body. People were more interested in his appearance than the fish.

**6. Write True or False against each of the following sentences.**

1. The king lost his temper easily – **True**

2. Gopal was a madman – **False**

3. Gopal was a clever man - **True**
4. Gopal was too poor to afford decent clothes – **False**
5. The king got angry when he was shown to be wrong – **False**

### Working with Language

1. Notice how in a comic book, there are no speech marks when characters talk. Instead what they say is put in a speech ‘bubble’. However, if we wish to repeat or report what they say, we must put it into reported speech. Change the following sentences in the story to reported speech. The first one has been done for you.

1. How much did you pay for that Hilsa?
2. Why is your face half-shaven? Gopal’s wife asked him .....
3. I accept the challenge, Your Majesty. Gopal told the king .....
4. I want to see the king. Gopal told the guards .....
5. Bring the man to me at once. The king ordered the guard .....

#### **Solution:**

1. The woman asked the man how much did he pay for that Hilsa.
2. Gopal’s wife asked him why his face was half-shaven.
3. Gopal told the king that he accepted the challenge.
4. Gopal told the guards that he wanted to see the king.
5. The king ordered the guard to bring the man to him at once.

2. Find out the meaning of the following words by looking them up in dictionary. Then use them in sentences of your own.

challenge, mystic, comical, courtier, smearing

#### **Solution:**

**Challenge:** A call to take part in a contest or competition.

Vikram accepted the challenge of his teacher and won prize in the annual day celebrations.

**Mystic:** Spiritual, occult

The sufi saints like Salim Chishti were mystic.

**Comical:** Funny

Mr Bean is one of the most famous comical characters on television.

**Courtier:** A person, who attends a royal court as a companion or advisor to the king or queen. Birbal was one of the most important courtiers in Akbar's court.

**Smearing:** Coat or mark carelessly with grease or oil.  
Before the game, Rakesh smeared his body with oil.

**POST ACTIVITY:**

If you take a challenge, you must put in efforts to win it. How?