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Question Bank

WBBSE Class 7 English (Blossoms VII)

Lesson 5: Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture

by Jerome K. Jerome

Seen Questions, Grammar Exercises and Writing Practice

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73 questions: 57 textbook questions, 11 school paper questions, 5 additional practice questions

Lesson Summary

This funny piece, taken from the writings of Jerome K. Jerome, describes what happens when Uncle Podger undertakes to hang a picture. A picture has come home from the frame-makers and is standing in the dining-room, waiting to be put up. Aunt Podger asks what is to be done with it, and Uncle Podger at once says, "Oh, you leave that to me. Don't you, any of you, worry yourselves about that. I'll do all that." Then he takes off his coat and begins, and the whole house is thrown into a commotion.

Uncle Podger sends the girl out for sixpen'orth of nails, and one of the boys after her to tell her what size to get. He shouts for Will to bring his hammer, for Tom to bring the rule, and for a step-ladder and a kitchen-chair. Maria must stay, because he wants somebody to hold him the light. When the girl comes back, she must go out again for a bit of picture cord. Then the trouble begins. Uncle Podger drops the picture and it comes out of the frame. He tries to save the glass and cuts himself. He springs round the room looking for his handkerchief, but it is in the pocket of the coat he has taken off, and he cannot find the coat, because he is sitting on it. All the house has to leave off looking for his tools and start looking for his coat, while he dances round and hinders them.

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When at last he gets the spot fixed, he puts the point of the nail on it with his left hand and takes the hammer in his right hand. With the first blow he smashes his thumb and drops the hammer, with a yell, on somebody's toes. He loses sight of the mark he has made on the wall, the nail goes clean through the plaster, and half the hammer follows it. He calls everyone fools and slides down on the piano. Aunt Maria mildly observes that next time Uncle Podger is going to hammer a nail into the wall, she hopes he will let her know in time, so that she can go and spend a week with her mother. The work goes on till around midnight, and everyone is tired out. Yet Uncle Podger proudly says he does not understand why some people hire a man to do such a simple job.

Key Points

Author	Jerome K. Jerome (1859-1927), English writer and humourist, best known for "Three Men in a Boat"
Theme	

	Humour in everyday life; a simple job made into a grand chaos by a careless, boastful man who blames everyone else
Characters	Uncle Podger, boastful and careless; Aunt Podger (Aunt Maria); the children Tom, Will and Maria; the girl (the maid); the charwoman; the narrator, Uncle Podger's nephew
Setting	The dining-room of Uncle Podger's house, where the picture has to be hung
Grammar topics taught	Prefixes and suffixes (in-, im-, -al, -some); compound words; plural nouns
Writing topics taught	Writing about future ambitions; summary writing; narrating a funny incident

Seen Questions

A. From the Textbook (Blossoms VII)

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Act 1: Choose the correct answers [textbook exercise]

(a) The thing which would have come home from the frame-makers is - (i) a picture (ii) a carving on wood (iii) a picture drawn on a piece of cloth.

Answer: (i) a picture. A picture had come home from the frame-makers and was standing in the dining-room, waiting to be put up.

(b) Uncle Podger would take off his - (i) vest (ii) tie (iii) coat.

Answer: (iii) coat. Uncle Podger would take off his coat and begin the job.

(c) Uncle Podger would ask - (i) the boy (ii) the girl (iii) the charwoman, for sixpen'orth of nails.

Answer: (ii) the girl. Uncle Podger would send the girl out for sixpen'orth of nails.

(d) Uncle Podger, at first, would drop the - (i) picture (ii) hammer (iii) nail.

Answer: (i) picture. At first Uncle Podger would drop the picture, and it would come out of the frame.

Act 2: True or False, give supporting statements [textbook exercise]

(a) There was a commotion in the house when Uncle Podger undertook a job.

Answer: True. Supporting statement: "You never saw such a commotion up and down a house in all your life, as when my Uncle Podger undertook to do a job."

(b) Uncle Podger did not want to hang the picture.

Answer: False. Supporting statement: "Oh, you leave that to me. Don't you, any of you, worry yourselves about that. I'll do all that."

(c) Uncle Podger would cut himself and spring round the room searching for his handkerchief.

Answer: True. Supporting statement: "He would try to save the glass and cut himself. Then he would spring round the room, looking for his handkerchief."

(d) The second thing that Uncle Podger would lose would be the hammer.

Answer: False. Supporting statement: The second thing he lost was the nail. "He would grasp the nail and let it fall."

Act 3: Complete the sentences [textbook exercise]

(a) Aunt Podger would ask _____ after the picture came to the house.

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Answer: Aunt Podger would ask what was to be done with it after the picture came to the house.

(b) Tom was asked to bring _____.

Answer: Tom was asked to bring the rule. In the lesson Uncle Podger shouts, "You bring me the rule, Tom."

> **Note:** Published answers differ on this item. The lesson passage itself settles it: Tom is asked for the rule, while the picture is handed up to Uncle Podger later and the step-ladder and kitchen-chair are asked for in general, not from Tom.

(c) _____ as he would be sitting on it.

Answer: Nobody could find the coat as he would be sitting on it. Uncle Podger had taken off his coat and then sat down on it, so no one could find it.

> **Note:** Published completions of this sentence differ from one another. The answer given here follows the sense of the lesson: the lost coat is found only when Uncle Podger gets up from the chair he was sitting on.

Act 4: Answer the following questions [textbook exercise]

(a) Name the children of Uncle Podger.

Answer: The children of Uncle Podger are Tom, Will and Maria. All three are named in the lesson.

> **Note:** One published answer names only Will and Tom and leaves out Maria, but Maria is named in the lesson itself, when Uncle Podger asks her to stay and hold the light.

(b) What did Uncle Podger ask the children to bring for him?

Answer: Uncle Podger asked the children to bring sixpen′orth of nails, a hammer, a rule, a step-ladder, a kitchen-chair, a light and a bit of picture cord.

(c) How did Uncle Podger cut himself?

Answer: He lifted up the picture to hang it and dropped it. The picture came out of the frame, and when he tried to save the glass, he cut himself.

(d) Why did Uncle Podger want his coat?

Answer: Because his handkerchief was in the pocket of his coat, and he wanted the handkerchief after he had cut himself.

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(e) Where did he find his coat?

Answer: He got up from the chair and found that he had been sitting on it all the time.

Act 5: Choose the correct answers [textbook exercise]

(a) Uncle Podger would call us all - (i) intelligent (ii) careless (iii) fools.

Answer: (iii) fools. Whenever anything went wrong, Uncle Podger blamed everyone else and called them fools.

(b) Uncle Podger would slide and fall - (i) on the charwoman′s toes (ii) on the piano (iii) on the chair.

Answer: (ii) on the piano. Uncle Podger would slide down on the piano as he tried to reach a point beyond his reach.

(c) Uncle Podger′s work would finish - (i) at around midnight (ii) at mid-day (iii) in the evening.

Answer: (i) at around midnight. The simple job of hanging one picture went on till around midnight.

Act 6: Complete the sentences [textbook exercise]

(a) Uncle Podger would lose sight of the mark _____.

Answer: Uncle Podger would lose sight of the mark he had made on the wall, where the nail was to go in.

(b) _____ trying to reach a point three inches beyond.

Answer: Not published in a reliable form. The published completion for this sentence is garbled and does not read as a coherent completion, so it is not reproduced here as a correct answer.

(c) _____ doing a job of this sort.

Answer: Not published in a reliable form. No source checked publishes a clear, coherent completion for this sentence, so none is given here.

> **Note:** Only one published source gives completions for Act 6 (b) and (c), and its wording is garbled in both cases. Nothing has been invented to fill the gap.

Act 7: Complete the table, Cause - Effect [textbook exercise]

Cause	Effect
Each child had to get up beside him on the chair.	They would each discover the mark on the wall in a different place.
Uncle Podger would fall on to the piano.	He would slide down the piano, because the string slipped while he was trying to reach a point beyond his reach.
At the first blow of the hammer.	His thumb would be smashed and he would drop the hammer, causing him to yell.
A new hole was made.	The nail would go clean through the plaster, and half the hammer would follow it.

Act 8: Answer the following questions [textbook exercise]

(a) Give two instances to show the carelessness of Uncle Podger.

Answer: (i) After sitting on his own coat, he blamed the others for not finding it. (ii) After losing the hammer, he shouted at others and called them fools, though the fault was his own.

(b) What did Aunt Podger say after Uncle Podger smashed his thumb?

Answer: She hoped that next time Uncle Podger planned a job like this, she would go to her mother's house. She said she hoped he would let her know in time, so that she could make arrangements to go and spend a week with her mother while it was being done.

(c) How did Uncle [feel / react] after finishing the task?

Answer: He was proud of himself. He said he did not understand why some people hire a man to do such a simple job.

(d) Why was everyone tired after Uncle Podger put up the picture on the wall?

Answer: Because it took a very long time, till around midnight, and Uncle Podger made the task very exhausting, with everyone running about fetching tools, looking for lost things and holding the light.

> **Note:** No second source publishes answers for Activity 8. The answers above are the only published ones, and their wording has been tidied where it was garbled, without changing the sense.

Act 9: Match the words with their meanings [textbook exercise]

Column A	Column B
(a) sneer	mock
(b) evident	clear
(c) wretched	poor
(d) surveying	closely observed

Act 10: Find the antonyms from the text [textbook exercise]

Word	Antonym
rapidly	slowly
lost	found
remembered	forgot
roughly	gently

save	spend
straight	crooked

Act 11: Use prefixes or suffixes to form new words [textbook exercise]

Prefixes and suffixes to use: in- / im- / -al / -some.

Word	New word
different	indifferent
possible	impossible
sufficient	insufficient
arrive	arrival
whole	wholesome

Act 12: Compound words [textbook exercise]

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Find as many compound words as you can from the lesson, and make sentences with them.

Compound words from the lesson, with sample sentences:

Answer: (1) frame-maker - "The picture came home from the frame-maker's shop." (2) dining-room - "The picture was standing in the dining-room." (3) step-ladder - "Uncle Podger needed the step-ladder to reach higher." (4) kitchen-chair - "He decided to use a kitchen-chair for support."

> **Note:** One published list also names "hammer", "nail", "rule", "crooked" and "insecure" as compound words. Those are not compound words, so only the four hyphenated words above are given here.

Act 13: Write 5 sentences about what you want to be in future [textbook exercise]

Write 5 sentences about what you want to be in future. Start in this way: "I would like to be..."

Answer (model sentences): I would like to be a teacher, so that I can help children learn and grow. I would like to be a doctor, so that I can treat sick people in my village. I would like to be a writer, crafting stories that make children laugh and think. I would like to be a scientist, unravelling the mysteries of nature. I would like to be a good human being, honest and kind to everyone around me.

Act 14: Plural nouns [textbook exercise]

Find the plural nouns from the following sentences and then make other sentences with them: He wore his old trousers to school. Mother wanted the scissors to cut the thread. The press went public over the issue. At the station, the goods were unloaded from the train. His true colours came to the forefront at the meeting.

The plural nouns are: trousers, scissors, press, goods, colours. Make other sentences with them.

Answer: (1) trousers - "He wore his old trousers to school, even though they were worn out and patched." (2) scissors - "Mother wanted the scissors to cut the thread that had come loose from her sweater." (3) press - "The press went public over the issue, and everyone began to talk about it." (4) goods - "At the station, the goods were unloaded from the train and taken to the warehouse." (5) colours - "His true colours came to the forefront at the meeting, and everyone saw his real nature."

Act 15: Summary writing [textbook exercise]

Now write a summary of the given passage: "Then he would spring around the room, looking for his handkerchief. He could not find his handkerchief, because it was in the pocket of the coat he had taken off, and he did not know where he had put the coat. All the house had to leave off looking for his tools, and start looking for his coat; while he would dance around and hinder them."

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Answer (model summary): The passage describes a scene in which Uncle Podger becomes frantic while searching for his handkerchief. He cannot find it because it is in the pocket of the coat he removed earlier, and he does not remember where he placed the coat. As a result, everyone in the house stops searching for his tools and starts searching for his coat. Meanwhile, Uncle Podger adds to the chaos by dancing around and hindering their efforts.

Act 16: Narrate a funny incident [textbook exercise]

Narrate a funny incident that you have experienced. You may use the following points: A brief account of the incident - when it happened - the funniest part of the incident - funny characters involved, if any.

Answer (model narrative): I was about five years old, and I was playing in the backyard with my friends. We were playing tag, and I was running as fast as I could. I did not see the tree in front of me, and I ran right into it. I fell down and scraped my knee, but I did not cry. I just got up and kept playing. The funniest part was that my friends were laughing at me. They thought it was really funny that I had run into a tree. We all had a good laugh about it, and we continued playing tag. It was a fun day, and I will never forget the time I ran into a tree.

B. School-Paper Seen

2nd Unit Test 2024, Set 4 [school paper 2024: 2nd Unit Test, Set 4]

Passage: "At last, Uncle Podger would get the spot fixed, and put the point of the nail on it with his left hand, and take the hammer in his right hand. And with the first blow, he would smash his thumb, and drop the hammer, with a yell, on somebody's toes. Aunt Maria would mildly observe that, next time uncle Podger was going to hammer a nail into the wall, she hoped he'd let her know in time. She could then make arrangements to go and spend a week with her mother while it was being done."

A. Answer the following questions: (i) How did Uncle Podger smash his thumb? **[school paper 2024: 2nd Unit Test, Set 4]**

Answer: When Uncle Podger got the spot fixed, he put the point of the nail on it with his left hand and took the hammer in his right hand. With the first blow, he smashed his thumb and dropped the hammer, with a yell, on somebody's toes.

(ii) What did Aunt Maria hope to let her know in time from Uncle Podger? **[school paper 2024: 2nd Unit Test, Set 4]**

Answer: Aunt Maria hoped that next time Uncle Podger was going to hammer a nail into the wall, he would let her know in time. She could then make arrangements to go and spend a week with her mother while it was being done.

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B. Fill in the blanks from the information from the text: (i) The hammer was dropped on _____. **[school paper 2024: 2nd Unit Test, Set 4]**

Answer: The hammer was dropped on somebody's toes.

(ii) Aunt Maria could make arrangements _____. **[school paper 2024: 2nd Unit Test, Set 4]**

Answer: Aunt Maria could make arrangements to go and spend a week with her mother.

2nd Summative Evaluation 2025, Set 1 [school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]

Passage: "You never saw such a commotion up and down a house in all your life, as when my Uncle Podger undertook to do a job. A picture would have come home from the frame-makers, and be standing in the dining-room, waiting to be put up. Aunt Podger would ask what was to be done with it, and Uncle Podger would say: 'Oh, you leave that to me. Don't you, any of you, worry yourselves about that. I'll do all that.' And then he would take off his coat, and begin. He would send the girl out for sixpen'orth of nails, and then one of the boys after her to tell her

what size to get. 'Now you go and get me my hammer, Will,' he would shout, 'and you bring me the rule, Tom. I shall want the step-ladder, and I had better have a kitchen-chair, too. And don't you go, Maria, because I shall want somebody to hold me the light. When the girl comes back she must go out again for a bit of picture cord. Tom! Where's Tom? Tom, you come here; I shall want you to hand me up the picture.'"

A. Complete the following sentences with information from the text: (i) Maria was told to _____ **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: Maria was told not to go, because Uncle Podger wanted somebody to hold him the light.

(ii) After taking off his coat, Uncle Podger _____ **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: After taking off his coat, Uncle Podger began the job. He sent the girl out for sixpen'orth of nails, and then one of the boys after her to tell her what size to get.

(iii) Tom was asked to _____ **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: Tom was asked to bring the rule, and later to come and hand Uncle Podger up the picture.

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B. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false statements: (i) Uncle Podger needs none to help him in his work. **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: F. Uncle Podger asked everyone to help him. He sent the girl for nails, Will for the hammer, Tom for the rule, and Maria to hold the light.

(ii) Will is asked to hold the light. **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: F. Will is asked to bring the hammer. It is Maria who is asked to hold the light.

(iii) There was a commotion in the house when Uncle Podger undertook a job. **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: T. Supporting statement: "You never saw such a commotion up and down a house in all your life, as when my Uncle Podger undertook to do a job."

C. Answer the following question: (i) Who is the writer of the above passage? **[school paper 2025: 2nd Summative Evaluation, Set 1]**

Answer: Jerome K. Jerome is the writer of the above passage.

C. Additional Practice [Additional]

1. Who wrote the lesson "Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture"? [Additional]

Answer: Jerome K. Jerome wrote the lesson "Uncle Podger Hangs a Picture".

2. What did Uncle Podger send the girl out for at the start of the job? [Additional]

Answer: Uncle Podger sent the girl out for sixpen'orth of nails, and then sent one of the boys after her to tell her what size to get.

3. Uncle Podger finished hanging the picture within an hour. Write 'T' for true and 'F' for false. [Additional]

Answer: F. The work went on till around midnight, and everyone was tired out by the end.

4. Why was everyone tired after Uncle Podger put up the picture on the wall? [Additional]

Answer: Everyone was tired because the simple job took till around midnight, and all the while they had to run about fetching tools, looking for lost things, holding the light and helping Uncle Podger.

5. Give the antonym of "crooked" as used in the lesson. [Additional]

Answer: The antonym of "crooked" is "straight".

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