



ENGLISH

NCERT - NCERT ENGLISH(HINGLISH)

THE PROPOSAL

Thinking About The Play

1. What does Chubukov at first suspect that Lomov has come for? Is he sincere when he later says “And I’ve always loved you, my angel,

as if you were my own son”? Find reasons for your answer from the play.



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2. Chubukov says of Natalya: “... as if she won’t consent! She’s in love, egad, she’s like a lovesick cat...” Would you agree? Find reasons for your answer.



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3. Find all the words and expressions in the play that the characters use to speak about each other, and the accusations and insults they hurl at each other. (For example, Lomov in the end calls Chubukov an intriguer, but earlier, Chubukov has himself called Lomov a “malicious, double faced intriguer.” Again, Lomov begins by describing Nayalya as “an excellent housekeeper, not bad-looking, well-educated.”)



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Thinking About The Language

1. This play has been translated into English from the Russian original. Are there any expressions or ways of speaking that strike you as more Russian than English? For example, would an adult man be addressed by an older man as my darling or my treasure in an English play? Read through the play carefully, and find expressions that you think are not used in contemporary English, and contrast these with idiomatic modern English

expressions that also occur in the play.

3. Look up the following phrases in a dictionary to find out their meaning, and then use each in a sentence of your own.

(i) You may take it that

(ii) He seems to be coming round

(iii) My foot's gone to sleep



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2. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some

changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred.

To report a question, we use the reporting verb _____



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3. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes

that have occurred.

To report a declaration, we use the reporting verb _____.



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4. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred.

The adverb of place here changes to _____.



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5. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred.

When the verb in direct speech is in the present tense, the verb in reported speech is in the _____ tense (as in Sentence Set 3).



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6. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred.

If the verb in direct speech is in the present continuous tense, the verb in reported speech changes to _____ tense. For example, _____ changes to was getting.



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7. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred.

When the sentence in direct speech contains a word denoting respect, we add the adverb _____ in the reporting clause (as in Sentence Set 1).



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8. You must have noticed that when we report someone's exact words, we have to make some changes in the sentence structure. In the sentences fill in the blanks to list the changes that have occurred.

The pronouns I, me, our and mine, which are used in the first person in direct speech, change to third person pronouns such as _____, _____, _____ or _____ in reported speech.



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9. Here is an excerpt from an article from the Times of India dated 27 August 2006. Rewrite it, changing the sentences in direct speech into reported speech. Leave the other sentences unchanged.

“Why do you want to know my age? If people know I am so old, I won’t get work!” laughs 90-year-old A. K. Hangal, one of Hindi cinema’s most famous character actors. For his age, he is rather energetic. “What’s the secret?” we ask. “My intake of everything is in small quantities. And I walk a lot,” he replies. “I

joined the industry when people retire. I was in my 40s. So I don't miss being called a star. I am still respected and given work, when actors of my age are living in poverty and without work. I don't have any complaints," he says, adding, "but yes, I have always been underpaid." Recipient of the Padma Bhushan, Hangal never hankered after money or materialistic gains. "No doubt I am content today, but money is important. I was a fool not to understand the value of money earlier," he regrets.



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