

## SEQUENCE IV : The Gift of the Magi by O. Henry

**A. Reading Comprehension**

**B. Pronunciation / Spelling**

**C. Word-Building**

**D. Grammar**

**E. Writing**

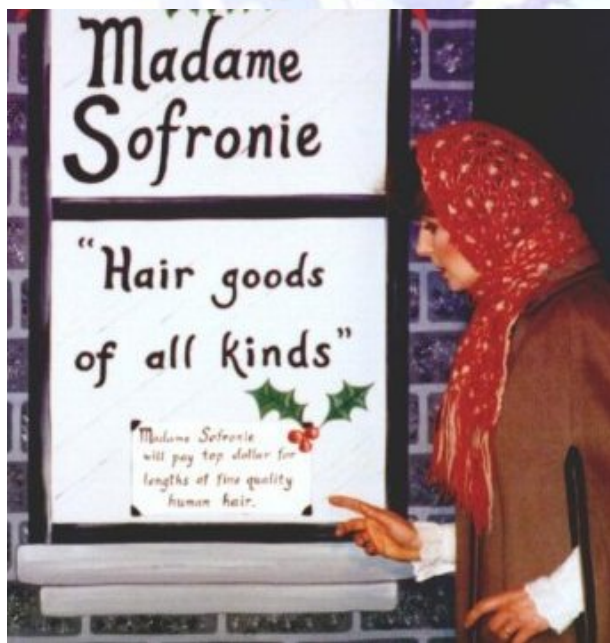
## A. Reading Activity

Read the text below and do the follow-up activities

### “The Gift of the Magi” by O. Henry



One dollar and eighty-seven cents, that was all she had been able to save to buy a Christmas present for Jim. Suddenly she stared at a mirror with shining eyes. It sent back the image of Della's beautiful hair shining and reaching below her knee.



Della and Jim had two possessions of which they both were very proud. One was Jim's gold watch that had been his father's and his grandfather's. The other was Della's hair. She put on her old brown coat and went down the stairs. A few minutes later, she pushed a hairdresser's door.

“Will you buy my hair?” asked Della.

“Let me have a look.” said the hairdresser.

“Twenty dollars,” she added, lifting the mass with her hand.

Della spent hours looking for Jim’s present. She found it at last. It was a gold valuable watch chain. She paid twenty-one dollars for it, and hurried home with the 87 cents.



Once at home, she looked at herself in a mirror and wondered anxiously for a moment what Jim would think of her haircut. Later, when he stepped in, he stared upon Della without any expression on his face.

“Jim,” she cried, “don’t look at me that way. I had my hair cut off because I wanted to give you a Christmas present.

“Cut off your hair?” repeated Jim,

“Cut it off and sold it,” said Della. Merry Christmas Jim!

It’s Christmas Eve, Jim, come and see your gift.”

Then Jim, who seemed suddenly to wake, drew a box from his inside pocket.

“Dell, open that package.” Jim said.



Della's fingers unwrapped the packet and the scream of joy she had first changed into tears. In the box lay the expensive set of combs, Della had admired, without the least hope of possession, in a shop window.

Now, they were hers, but her tresses were gone. She hugged them to her bosom, and after a while, she leaped up to show Jim his beautiful present. She held it out to him eagerly.



"Isn't it beautiful Jim? Give me your watch. I want to see how it looks on it."

"Dell," said Jim, "This is a wonderful gift but let's put our Christmas presents away just at present. I pawned the watch to get the money for the combs."





**New word:**

**\*to pawn:** to leave a valuable object with a pawn-broker  
in order to borrow money

**Activity 1:**

**Are the statements below true (T) or false (F)?  
Correct the false ones.**

1. The young couple did not have much money.

.....

2. Della sold her hair to buy Jim a watch.

.....

3. The hairdresser paid 87 cents for the hair.

.....

4. Jim stared upon Della because he disliked her haircut.

.....

5. Della burst into tears when she saw her present because  
she didn't like it.

**Activity 2:**

**Give full answer to the following questions:**

1. Why did Della and Jim sell and pawn their unique  
valuable possessions?

.....

2. Why didn't Jim react when he saw Della?

.....

## B. Pronunciation

The final **-b** in words ending in **-mb** is **silent**

e.g. : comb /**koum**/

tomb /**tu:m**/

### Activity:

**Read aloud the words below and write them in the space provided**

Phonetic transcription	Words
/læm/	.....
/lim/	.....
/θʌm/	.....
/klaɪm/	.....

## C. Word Building:

- ✓ Some nouns form their adjectives with the suffix **-ful**  
e.g.: beauty → beautiful wonder → wonderful
- ✓ Abstract nouns usually form their adjectives with the suffix **-ship**:  
e.g.: friend → friendship partner → partnership
- ✓ Some nouns form their adjectives with the suffix **-ous**  
e.g.: courtesy → courteous courage → courageous

### Activity1:

**Supply the correct suffix to each word and write it in the appropriate column.**

use - member - dread – humorous- ownership – fury –  
hope – miracle – tear – partner – relation – generosity -

<b>-ful</b>	<b>-ous</b>	<b>-ship</b>
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
.....	.....	.....
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## Activity 2:

### Supply the correct word

1. He got ..... when he heard the news.
2. We have built a ..... between the firms.
3. It was ..... that he was not killed in the accident.
4. She's trying to comfort the ..... child.
5. There are ..... signs that he will recover soon.
6. The ..... of the house is being discussed as the deceased proprietor seemed to have no relatives.
7. Nowadays ..... techniques are used to cheer up sick children in hospitals.
8. They gave us some ..... information.
9. It must be a pure coincidence. I do not think there is a ..... between the two events.
10. Scream was really a ..... movie to watch.
11. She is always ready to give things to others. She is the most ..... person I have ever met.
12. I have to renew my ..... in the sports club.



## D. Grammar

### 1. Past simple

✚ Use the past simple for:

- ✓ actions that **began and ended** at a particular time in the past.  
e.g.: She **put on** her old brown coat and **went down** the stairs. A few minutes later, she **pushed** a hairdresser's door.
- ✓ If a sentence contains "**when**" and has the **simple past in both clauses**, the action in "**the when clause**" happens **first**.  
e.g.: Later, **when Jim stepped in**, he **stared upon** Della with a peculiar expression on his face.

✚ Form the past simple:

- ✓ of **regular verbs** by adding **-ed**  
e.g.: push → pushed    stare → stared
- ✓ of **irregular verbs** by using the correct past form (you can check the list at the end of your book.)  
e.g.: put → put    go → went

✚ Form the **interrogative and negative statements** with the auxiliaries **did / did not**

e.g.: Why **did** Della and Jim **sell** their possessions?  
They **did not have** money for the Christmas gifts.

## Activity:

### Supply the correct form of the verbs between

1. Sue (stand) ..... under a tree when it (begin) ..... to rain.
- 2 She (go) ..... downtown yesterday. She (spend) ..... all the afternoon in shops.
3. When I (drop) ..... my cup, the coffee (spill) ..... on the tablecloth.
4. I (get) ..... a package in the mail yesterday. When I (open) ..... it, I (find) a birthday gift from my sister.
5. I quietly (tiptoe) ..... out of the room when I (realize) ..... he was sleeping.
6. When the gatekeeper (hear) ..... a strange noise, he (get) ..... up to investigate.
7. I (not meet) ..... Jane at the party last night. (you invite) ..... her?
8. She (live) ..... in London five years ago.

## 2. Quantifiers

Quantifiers	+ countable nouns	+ uncount nouns
<b>All / All of us (100%)</b>	<b>All CDs</b> are in sale. <b>All of us</b> swim.	<b>All rice</b> comes from Asia.
<b>Nearly all (of) ( 80 - 99%)</b>	<b>Nearly all books</b> are in sale. <b>Nearly all of us</b> speak English	<b>Nearly all tea</b> comes from India.
<b>A great deal of (36%-79%)</b>		There's <b>a great deal of rice</b> in the bag.
<b>A lot of (50% - 79%)</b>	They did not have <b>a lot of possessions.</b>	They did not have <b>a lot of money.</b>
<b>Much(of) (50% - 79%)</b>		They do not have <b>much money.</b> <b>Much of</b> the farm was destroyed.
<b>Many(of) (50% - 79% )</b>	He didn't ask <b>many questions.</b> <b>Many of my friends</b> went to the party.	

<b>Quantifiers</b>	<b>+ countable nouns</b>	<b>+ uncount nouns</b>
<b>some (of)</b> <b>(26% - 50%)</b>	I bought <b>some CDs</b> . <b>Some of the CDs</b> are very cheap.	I spent <b>some money</b> . I used <b>some of the milk</b> left for a cake.
<b>Few (of)</b> <b>( 5% - 25%)</b>	I had <b>few friends</b> . <b>Few of his songs</b> are popular (= not many)	
<b>Little (of)</b> <b>( 5% - 25%)</b>		When she finished shopping, she had <b>little money</b> left. (=not much) As I had <b>a little money</b> left, I could buy a snack.
<b>almost no</b> <b>( 1% - 4%)</b>	There <b>are almost no apples</b> left.	There <b>is almost no tea</b> left.

## Activity:

**Choose the correct answer**

**Use capital letters when necessary:**

1. In England, ..... motorists drive on the left side the road.  
a)- no                      b)- few                      c)- all                      d)- many
2. I don't have any pictures left. I've given ..... to John.  
a)- all them    b)- all of them    c)- them all    d)- them all of
3. Jack doesn't look well. He's lost .....weight  
a)- a lot of    b)- a lot    c)- many    d)- little
4. I think he spends too ..... time playing computer games.  
a)- many    b)- little    c)- much    d)- a lot of
5. I made ..... fresh coffee and handed a cup to Bob.  
a)- few    b)- some of    c)- some    d)- little of
6. .... boys enjoy playing football.  
a)- much    b)- a lot    c)- many    d)- some of
7. .... the scientific articles are in English.  
a)- All of    b)- Nearly all of    c)- some    d)- a lot



### 3. Each other / One another

Use **each other** / **one another** with some verbs to describe actions in which two or more people or things **do the same thing to the other(s)**.

e.g.: They looked at **each other/one another** and laughed.

#### Activity:

**Complete the sentences with one of these verbs in an appropriate form followed by each other .**

avoid – communicate – **compete** – fight – face – help

e.g: Countries ..... with .....  
to build the tallest building in the world.  
Countries **are competing** with **each other** to  
build the tallest building in the world.

1. We quarreled a few days ago and since then we've tried to .....
2. The internet allows people from all over the world to ..... with .....
3. If you help ..... instead of working on your own, you will finish the work earlier.
4. The two opponents ..... over the chess board before starting the game.
5. They've been ..... for such a long time that nobody believes the conflict has finally come to an end

## E. Writing

### 1. Summarize the story:

.....

.....

.....

.....

### 2. Explain where the irony lies:

.....

.....

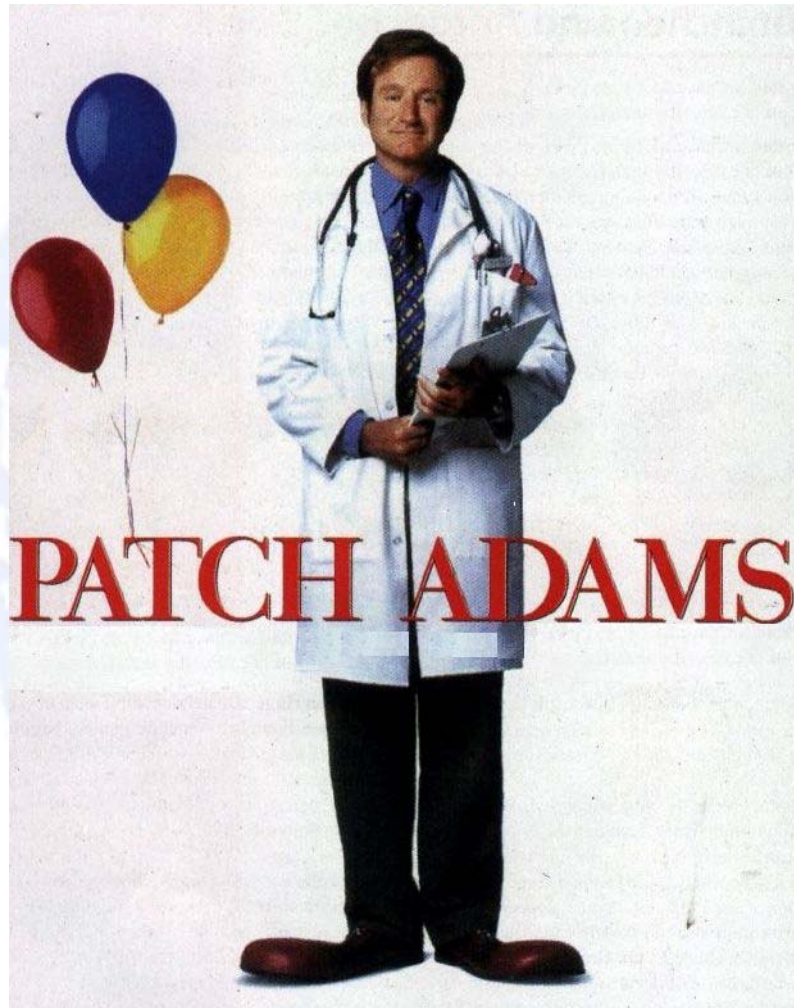
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.....

.....

## Reading

# Stress Humour & Health



*In the quiet, sterile hospital, a clown with giant shoes and an enormous red nose suddenly bursts through a door and strides down the hall.*

***Patients beware ... laughter is contagious!***

<http://www.onefd.edu.dz>

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Patch Adams is a doctor who combines humour with medical treatment to heal his patients. He was once told by a faculty advisor, "If you want to be a clown, join the circus."



Patch did, in fact, want to be a clown. But he also wanted to be a doctor. He became both a passionate and dedicated doctor and the funniest clown. After graduation in the early 70's, he founded the Gesundheit Hospital.

Patch Adams uses humour to treat what he holds as great diseases of our world - boredom, fear and loneliness- .

Today we know about endorphins and their importance of the mind in the healing process. That knowledge didn't exist in the past. Patch is really a pioneer in the discovery of the medicinal values of laughter and compassion. He says that they are as great a value to physicians as medicines and technological advancements.

Humour helps because smiling and laughing triggers the secretions of chemicals known as endorphins. Endorphins strengthen the immune system (responsible for fighting disease and enhancing recovery), reduce pain, and relaxes the body. Humour also works because it distracts people from their worries and pain. Humour doesn't alter the situation, but it helps you to cope.

Here are a few examples of humouristic ways Patch uses to lighten life in hospital



- ✚ The patient taken to the surgery room is accompanied by a smiling clown doctor holding bunches of balloons to celebrate the trip to the road to recovery.
- ✚ All the patients have a walkman so that they can listen to humour CD's at any time.
- ✚ Clowns and Performers are invited to visit hospitals and entertain the sick.
- ✚ **'Under Repair Please Handle With Care'** badges are given to patients.
- ✚ A note on the hospital bedroom doors says:

**A place that serves breakfast in bed can't be that bad.**



Patch Adams:

“ My mother had a leg amputation as a result of having diabetes. When she regained consciousness, I smiled at her and said ‘Well mum, how does it feel to have one leg in the grave?’ She laughed out loud and each time she told that story to her friends she laughed again.



## Follow-up activities

### 1. Fill the table below with information from the text:

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Patch Adams</b>
<b>Job:</b>	- ..... - .....
<b>Achievements:</b>	- ..... - .....

### 2. Answer the questions below:

1. What are according to Patch Adams the greatest diseases?

.....  
.....

2. How does he try to treat them?

.....  
.....

3. How can humour help people to feel better?

.....  
.....

4. Which humoristic examples used in hospitals do you appreciate the most.

.....  
.....

5. Can you think of some others?

.....  
.....