

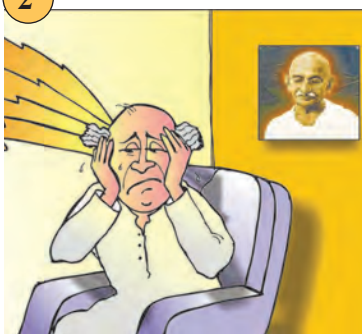
20. I'll be responsible and sensitive.

1



It was Deepika's birthday. She had invited all her friends to her house. When her friends came, she put on music at a loud volume and all of them began to dance and have fun.

2



Her neighbour was an elderly person. He suffered from high blood pressure. He could not tolerate very loud music.

3



He asked Deepika to turn down the volume. Deepika realized that he was suffering because of the loud music. She turned down the volume at once.



... and he realised his mistake!

Rahul's grandmother used to wait for him to return from school every day. When he returned, she would give him something to eat. She asked him about what had happened in school that day. As for Rahul, he couldn't wait to finish eating and watch cartoons on TV. Grandmother felt very bad that Rahul didn't talk to her properly. When Rahul's parents noticed this, they also felt bad about it. One day, Rahul's father explained to him, how his behaviour hurt his grandmother. Rahul realized his mistake. From then onwards, he began to talk to his grandmother lovingly.



Can you tell ?

Discuss both the above incidents in class.

- Why was Rahul's and Deepika's behaviour wrong?
- How did they correct their mistakes?
- Are there old people living in your home or neighbourhood?
- What help can you offer to them?

We all either live with or are related to old people. They love us and pamper us. However, they cannot run about and play like us. They often need small tasks done for them like fetching medicine or other products from the market, removing things from lofts or threading needles. If we carry out these tasks for them, it is of great help to them. If the TV or music is played loudly, it can be very disturbing for them. At such times, we must lower the volume.

Grandparents are often at home all day. Their only pastime is talking to their children and grandchildren. They are curious about what their grandchildren do at school all day. They have great affection for us. They feel happy when we speak to them lovingly.



Can you tell ?

If someone at home or in the neighbourhood is suffering from an illness, what should you do ?

Put a ✓ in front of the statements you agree with and a × in front of those you disagree with.

We should visit the patient frequently at any odd hour.	
The patient should be given medicines at the proper times.	
The patient should be offered fried food.	
The patient should not be given unwanted advice.	
The patient must be given meals at the right time.	
One can watch TV at a loud volume in a patient's room.	
The patient must be bathed only as per doctor's orders.	
When the patient is better, medicine should be stopped immediately without consulting the doctor.	

We all wish for a patient to get well soon. For this, we should follow the doctor's advice and take care accordingly. After giving first aid for injuries, the patient must be taken straight to a hospital or a Primary Health Centre. Do not depend on talismans, amulets and incantations. Consult a doctor on time.

Responsibility towards people with special needs

Some people have physical handicaps because of illnesses or accidents or, they may be born with them. They suffer many inconveniences and much discomfort at public places. That is why they are in need of special services and assistance.



Do you know ?

We have been successful in eradicating polio in our country. The World Health Organisation has praised India for this achievement. Since the campaign against polio was carried out with dedication over many years, the disease was eradicated.

- What is the phrase 'Do boond zindagike' related to?



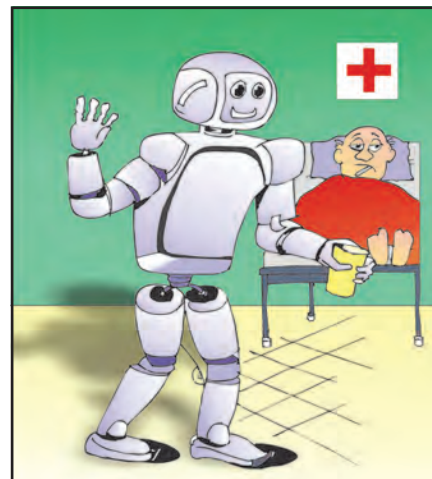
Try this.

Divide all the students in class into two groups. Blindfold the students in group 'A', but not those in group 'B'. Pair off each student from group 'A' with a student from group 'B'. Each pair will go from the classroom to the main gate of the school. On reaching the gate, remove the blindfold, and now, blindfold the student from group 'B'. Return to the classroom in the same pairs.

- What difficulties did you face while walking blindfolded?
- Could you walk at your normal speed while blindfolded?
- When not blindfolded, did you wait for your blindfolded classmate or leave them behind?



Do you know ?



A robot taking care of a patient

Nowadays in many hospitals abroad, robots are used for the service and aid of patients. Will it be fun to have robots work for you? Or will it be boring with no other human beings present?

- If your partner leaves you behind, how would you feel?



You may have seen a blind person with a white cane walking along the street. Blind people can walk about in public places freely with the help of the white cane. In some buildings, the floor numbers on lifts are written in Braille. That helps a blind person to go to any floor they wish without help. A blind person can also vote secretly like other citizens because of Braille signs on voting machines.

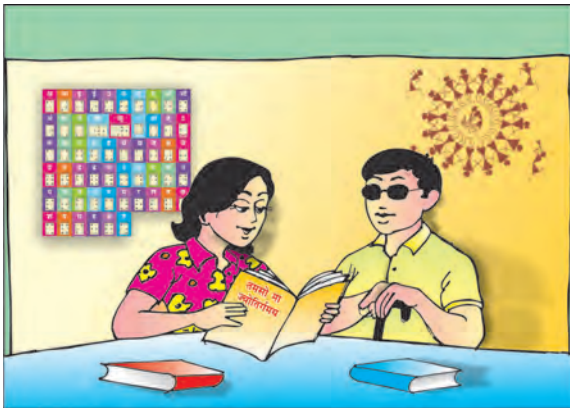
In schools, universities and in some other buildings, you may have seen a concrete slope next to the stairs. This slope is called a ramp. The ramp makes it possible for people in wheelchairs to enter the building. Some buildings also have special toilets for people in wheelchairs.



A Ramp

These facilities exist so that people with special needs can live their daily lives easily. However, these facilities are not available everywhere. We must treat people with special needs with care, whether these facilities exist in public places or not.

Blind people can read and write by using their sense of touch. This system of writing is called Braille. Braille characters make use of raised dots created on paper. Each character has a fixed number and arrangement of dots. A blind person can read the paper by feeling these raised dots. However, all of the books written in ordinary script are not available in Braille. Blind persons can listen to the stories if they are read out.



Try this.

- Write your name using the Braille characters given below.
- Tell us your friend's name using the signs in the sign language.

THE BRAILLE ALPHABET

a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	j	k	l	m

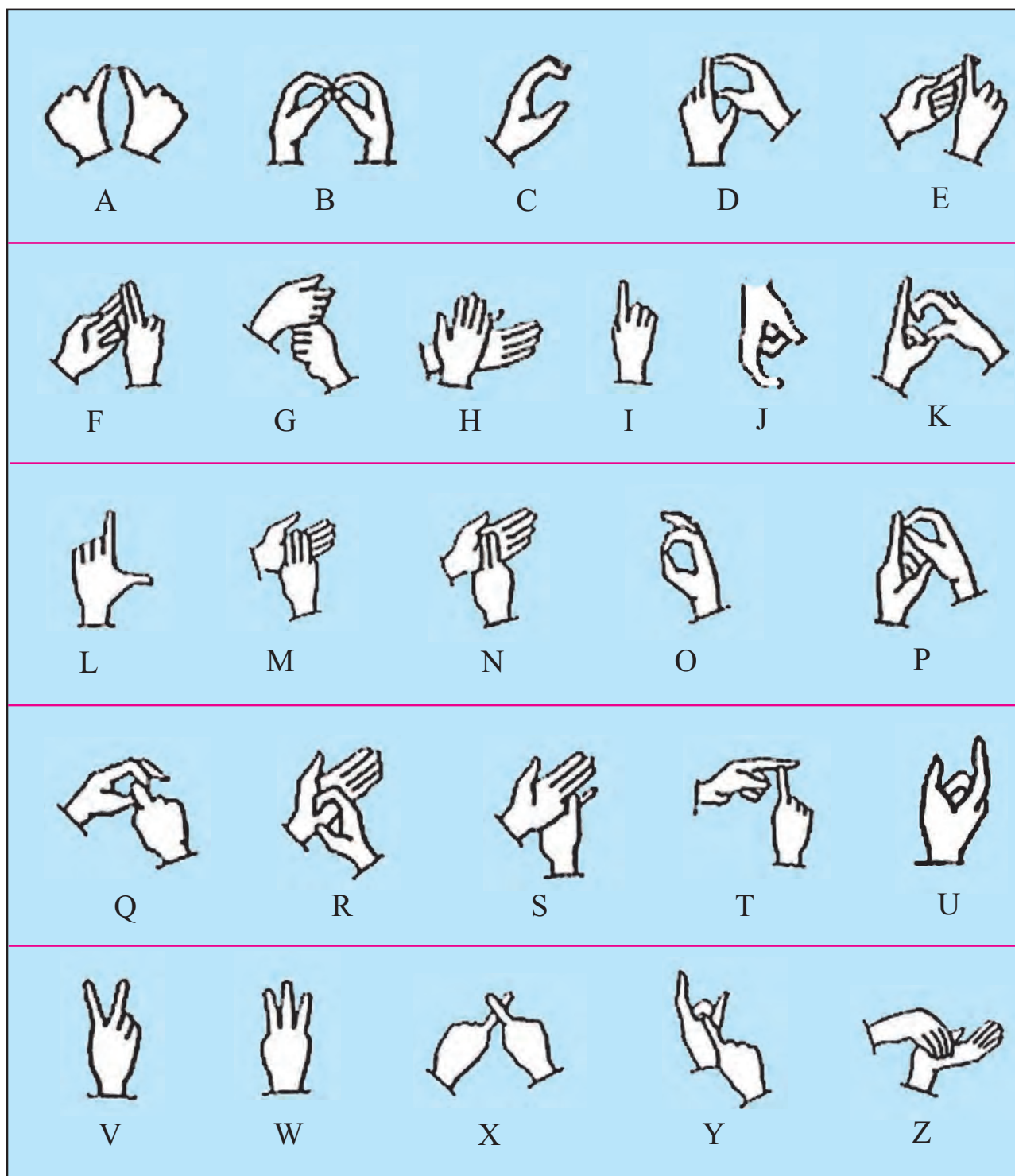
n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	v	w	x	y	z

NUMBERS

#	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Literary
Code

Braille Script



A Sign Language used in India

People who cannot hear use sign language. They are also taught how to ‘lip read’ to follow what other people are saying. They can follow other people’s speech, if they speak slowly and clearly. Special signed news programmes are broadcast on television for people who cannot hear.



Do you know ?

- Sudha Chandran is an expert Bharatnatyam dancer. She lost a leg in an accident. However, even with an artificial leg, she continues to dance and act with great determination.
- Ravindra Jain is blind. He has composed music for many movies and television programmes. He has also received many awards for his music.
- Sharath Gayakwad is disabled in one hand. However, he has made the country famous worldwide in swimming competitions.



What we have learnt –

- Being sensitive is understanding the difficulties of the people in our family and locality, and helping them when needed.
- We must treat old people, patients and those with special needs with care and respect.
- If we are sensitive, our capacity to help others increases.



Exercises

(A) Answer in one sentence.

1. What are the pastimes of old people ?
2. Whose advice should we take while caring for a patient ?

(B) True or false ?

1. The TV or music should be played at a loud volume.
2. We must depend on talismans, amulets and incantations to cure illnesses.

(C) Strike off the wrong word.

1. Deaf people use Braille/sign language.
2. Blind people can cross the road using their white cane/wheelchair.



Activities



- Visit a school for the blind. Find out more about the Braille script.
- Learn about schemes for people with special needs with the help of your teacher.
- Find some information about an institute that works for people with special needs.