Reading Selection 4.3

Lesson No. 12

It Couldn't be Done

یہ نہیں ہو سکتا

Edgar Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,

But, he with a chuckle replied to laugh softly or to oneself

That "maybe It couldn't" but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

کسی نے کہا کہ یہ (کام) نہیں ہو سکتا،

لیکن اس نے ہنستے ہوئے جواب دیا

ہو سکتا کہ ہے کہ یہ کام نہیں کیا جا سکے لیکن وہ ان میں سے ایک ہوگا

جو ایسا نہیں کہے گا۔ یہاں تک کہ وہ اسے کرنے کی کوشش کرے گا۔

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin to get ready; a broad smile

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, as he did it.

پس وہ مسکراتے ہوئے کام کے لئے کمر بستہ ہوا

اگر وہ پریشان ہوا اس نے اپنی پریشانی کو چھپایا

اس نے گاتے ہوئے مشکلات کا سامنا کیا

جیسے ہی اس نے وہ کام شروع کیا جو نہیں ہو سکتا تھا۔

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that; to mock; poke fun at

At least no one we know has done it";

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,

And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

کسی نے اس کا مذاق اڑایا۔ تم کبھی بھی یہ کام نہیں کر سکو گے۔

کم از کم ہم نہیں جانتے کہ کسی نے یہ کام کیا ہو۔

لیکن اس نے اپنا کوٹ اور اپنا ہیٹ اتارا،

اور پہلی چیز جو ہم جانتے ہیں، اس نے یہ کام شروع کیا۔

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

مسکراہٹ بکھیرتے ہوئے فخریہ انداز میں

بغیر کسی شک و شبہ کے۔

اس نے گاتے ہوئے مشکلات کا سامنا کیا

جو نہیں کیا جا سکتا تھا اس نے وہی کام کر دکھایا۔

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure; to predict or guess

There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,

The dangers that wait to assail you.

ہزاروں لوگ تمہیں کیا کہیں گے کہ یہ کام نہیں ہو سکتا۔

ہزاروں لوگ تمہاری ناکامی کی پیشگوئی کریں گے۔

ہزاروں لوگ تمہیں ایک ایک کر کے تمہاری نشاندہی کریں گے

ان خطرات کی جو تم پر حملے کی منتظر ہیں۔

But just buckle right in with a bit of a grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it;

Just start to sing as you tackle the thing

That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

لیکن تھوڑی سی مسکراہٹ کے ساتھ اسے کرنے کے لئے تیار ہو جاؤ

صرف اپنا کوٹ اتارو اور کام کرنے جاؤ۔

جوں ہی تم کھاتے ہوئے مشکلات کا سامنا کرو۔

جو نہیں کیا جا سکتا تھا، اور تم اس کو کر کے دکھاؤ گے۔

About the Poet

Edgar Albert Guest (1881-1959) was a prolific English-born American poet who was popular in the first half of the 20th century. In 1891, Guest came with his family to the United States from England. Known as Peoples' Poet, for 40 years, Guest was widely read throughout North America.

SUMMARY OF THE POEM

"IT COULDN'T BE DONE"

BY EDGAR GUEST

Some people have strange attitude towards difficult tasks. They say that they could not be done but the poet says that he would not accept it until he had tried it to do. He put himself to the task with a smile and took an initiative. People think some things impossible and laughs at those who try to achieve what they think impossible. People said that it could not be done as no one had done it before. But he made himself ready and took a start. He started to work with pride and smile and without any doubt in his mind. And he completed the task which was considered impossible by some people. People will try to dissuade you from doing something difficult and great. A thousand will tell you that it can't be done. A thousand will predict failure for you and many will warn you of the dangers. But do not listen to such people. Be ready with a smile and tackle the task while singing. Do it while others will say that you can't do it.

STUDY QUESTIONS

Understanding the Poem

1. This is a beautiful poem of six quatrains which describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks — it cannot be done. However, after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. One reason why people fear to embark upon great enterprises is that they see all the difficulties at once rather than one at a time You can achieve any purpose whatsoever if you heed not the doubters, meet each problem as it arises and keep ever with you the assurance —"It Can Be Done." Let us study the poem quatrain by quatrain:

- The first quatrain depicts the general attitude of the people towards difficult task. Someone said it couldn't be done. He said may be not but he would not accept it until he had tried to do it;

- The second quatrain is about how the 'he' begins to do it: So he put himself to the task with a smile and began to do what he was told it couldn't be done;

- The third quatrain is about people making fun of those who try to achieve what they think impossible: Someone poked fun at him, saying that he couldn't do it since no-one had done it before but he got ready and found himself doing it;

- The fourth quatrain is about those who believe in themselves and achieve the impossible: With pride and a broad smile and without any doubt in his mind, he started doing what was declared impossible and he did it;

- The fifth quatrain is about how people would try to dissuade you from doing something difficult and great- A thousand will tell you it cannot be done; a thousand will predict failure for you and a thousand will warn you of the dangers;

- The last quatrain advises not to listen to such people: But be ready with a smile and tackle the task while singing; and you will do it which other people said you won't.

Paraphrasing

2. Now that you have understood the poem, write a paraphrase/explanation of it in your own words.

Ans: Stanza No. 1

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,

But, he with a chuckle replied

That "maybe it couldn't" but he would be one

Who wouldn't say so till he'd tried.

Paraphrase:

Someone said it couldn't be done but he replied with a smile maybe it couldn't, but he wouldn't say so till the time he himself had tried it.

Reference to Context:-

These lines have been taken from the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" and composed by "Edgar Guest".

In this poem, the poet describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks. It can't be done, however after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. The poet says that it is wrong to say that a certain task can't be done. Nothing is impossible if a man has a strong will and determination.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tells that it is not right to say that it couldn't be done those who say that it couldn't be done are wet blankets. They discourage those who try to make possible what is thought to be impossible. There are two types of people, those who do to try to make some effort to do and those who are determined to do are try. Those who do not try always say that it could not be done. Men of strong will get up with a soft laugh and start the work. They work hard till they get tired. The reward for such men is that they succeed in getting the task done.

Stanza No. 2

So he buckled right in with the trace of a grin

On his face. If he worried he hid it.

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, as he did it.

Paraphrase:

He started his work with a smiling face. Whenever, if he faced any difficulty or problem, he hid his worry. He tackled the thing smilingly that he was told it couldn't be done.

Reference to Context:-

These lines have been taken from the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" and composed by "Edgar Guest"

In this poem, the poet describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks. It can't be done, however after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. The poet says that it is wrong to say that a certain task can't be done. Nothing is impossible if a man has a strong will and determination.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tells us that a man of strong will does not lose heart. He is never discouraged by what the people say. He gets ready and starts to work with zeal and zest. If there is some difficulty or hindrance for him, he ignores it and feels pleasure in his work. He enjoys his work and starts singing out of the joy. He looks satisfied and victorious. He belies those who say it couldn't do. He gets it done.

Stanza No. 3

Somebody scoffed: "Oh, you'll never do that;

At least no one we know has done it";

But he took off his coat and he took off his hat,

And the first thing we knew he'd begun it.

Paraphrase:

Someone mocked at him say tog that he couldn't do it since no one had done it before. But he got ready and started doing it.

Reference to Context:-

These lines have been taken from the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" and composed by "Edgar Guest"

In this poem, the poet describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks. It can't be done, however after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. The poet says that it is wrong to say that a certain task can't be done. Nothing is impossible if a man has a strong will and determination.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tells us that there are some people who poke fun at or laugh at other and say that they will nerve do that work. They discourage the man who intends to have done that work. He is the master of his will and determination. He ignores that they say and starts to work. He takes off his coat and hat and put them as side. He gets busy in his work. He begins his work with a zeal and zest. He knows that well begun is half done.

Stanza No. 4

With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,

Without any doubting or quiddit,

He started to sing as he tackled the thing

That couldn't be done, and he did it.

Paraphrase:

With pride and a broad smile and without any doubt or suspicion in his mind, he started doing what was declared impossible and he did it.

Reference to Context:-

These lines have been taken from the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" and composed by "Edgar Guest"

In this poem, the poet describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks. It can't be done, however after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. The poet says that it is wrong to say that a certain task can't be done. Nothing is impossible if a man has a strong will and determination.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tells us a man of strong will never loses his heart nor is discouraged by the statements of the people. He starts his work without any doubt or hesitation. He starts his work with devotion and commitment. He handles and manages his work successfully. He feels pleasure and signs songs of joy and victory. He performed the work successfully while others thought that it couldn't be done. As a matter of fact, he believes that nothing as impossible in this world.

Stanza No. 5

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,

There are thousands to prophesy failure;

There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,
The dangers that wait to assail you.

Paraphrase:

There will be thousands of people telling you it cannot be done. Thousands will predict your failure and thousands will warn you pointing out the dangers in your way

Reference to Context:-

These lines have been taken from the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" and composed by "Edgar Guest"

In this poem, the poet describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks. It can't be done, however after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. The poet says that it is wrong to say that a certain task can't be done. Nothing is impossible if a man has a strong will and determination

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tells us thousands of people will discourage you. They will tell you that it could not be done. Thousands and thousands of people will tell you in advance about the failure of the work or project. They will forbid you to do it. They Will tell you against the dangers in the certain project. They will tell you that there are many dangers that he will have to face the poet means to say that people of the world will discourage you in numerous ways but you must not listen to them if you have a strong will.

Stanza No. 6

But just buckle right in with a bit of a grin,

Just take off your coat and go to it;

Just start to sing as you tackle the thing

That "cannot be done," and you'll do it.

Paraphrase:

But be just ready to start the task with a smile and tackle the thing while singing. You will do that which other people said you won't do it.

Reference to Context:-

These lines have been taken from the poem, "It Couldn't be Done" and composed by "Edgar Guest"

In this poem, the poet describes a very common attitude towards difficult tasks It can't be done, however after a task has been done, everybody is ready to declare it easy. The poet says that it is wrong to say that a certain task can't be done. Nothing is impossible if a man has a strong will and determination.

Explanation:

In these lines, the poet tell that you should not heart people will discourage you but ignore them. Start work with an enthusiasm. Forget the comments of the people. Do your job with devotion, efficiency, commitment. Take of your coat and hat and get ready to do your work successfully After managing your work, you will fell joy and pleasure. You will sing songs of joy and satisfaction by your strong will and determination you will be able to do the work of which other thought that it couldn't be done

Writing

3. Have you ever accomplished something that other people considered impossible or difficult and tried to dissuade you from doing it?

Ans: My school conducted a cycling competition on the dated 12th March, 2018 My friends considered it difficult for me because didn't participate in these kinds of competitions before. They stopped me to do. Naturally, I love cycling. The good news is that I have participated in this competition. I was really excited while participating in the event. The level of competition is really hard. It was unbelievable moment for me. I couldn't believe myself that I really perform well and that was the reason I secured a 3rd place in this competition. This was the thing I felt I can't achieve but achieved successfully. I gave a cherishing and exciting experience. I will surely participate in the upcoming competition.

4. Read the story "Determination" again. How is this story an apt demonstration of the poem "It couldn't be done"?

Ans: The story "Determination" is an apt demonstration of the poem, "It couldn't be done" The shepherd intended to populate a mountain range with Oak and birch trees single-handed other people thought that it was impossible but he did it.

5. What would have been the reaction of the people to Bouffier if they had discovered that the shepherd intended to populate a mountain range with oak and birch trees single-handed? Think of the phrases and sentences that they would have used about him.

Ans: The people would have used different types of phrases and sentences. They have called him half-crack, without a common sense, with no power of understanding, have no idea of the difficulty of the project etc

6. Use the following chart to record your statement of the meaning of the poem and your observations about the techniques of the poem. Each column in the chart deals with one of the poetic techniques.

Meaning/Theme:

STANZA TYPE	SPEAKER	SOUND	IMAGERY	FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE
Stanza:	Human:	Rhyme:	Sight (Visual):	Similes:
Caplets	The Poet	Rhythm:	Hearing (Aural):	Metaphors
Tersest	Man/Woman	Alliteration:	Smell: (Olfactory):	Implied

				metaphors:
Quatrains	Mother/Father	Consonance:	Taste (Gustatory):	Other Devices:,
Quintets	Young/Old	Assonance:	Touch Tactile :	
Sestets	Boy/Girl		Onomatopoeia:	
Octave	Son/Daughter			
Strophes:	Non-human: Animals Wild Domestic Plants			

Lexical Aspects of Language (Grammar)

Minimal Pair Practice /f/ and /p/

Do you have trouble saying words like "perfect", "pray", "feel" and "fan"? If so, here are a few tips for improvement.

To make the [p] sound, have your two lips touching and blow out some air.

Practice the [p] sound with the following words:

Put, Play, Pie, Peel, Pray

To make the [f] sound, put your top teeth onto your bottom lip and blow out some air.

Practice the [f] sound with these words: Fan, Fail, Foot, Feel, Pheasant

Try out these tantalizing tongue twisters!!

Group 1:

Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers. Did Peter Piper pick a peck of pickled peppers? If Peter Piper picked a peck of pickled peppers, where's the peck of pickled peppers Peter Piper picked?

Group 2:

Fresh fried fish, Fish fresh fried, Fried fish fresh, Fish fried fresh

Group 3:

I'm not a pheasant plucker, I'm the pheasant plucker's son,

And I'm only plucking pheasants until the pheasant pluckers come

Minimal Pair

Face	Pace	Suffer	Supper	Cuff	Cup
Fill	Pill	Differ	Dipper	Chief	Cheap
Fan	Pan	Laughable	Lapable	Cough	Cop
Full	Pull	Chiefest	Cheapest	Chaff	Chap
Flop	Plo	Refs	Reps	Beef	Beep
Fast	Past	Coffer	Copper	Laugh	Lap
Fair	Pair	Reefer	Reaper	Puff	Pup
Fail	Pail	Coughs	Cops	Rife	Ripe
File	Pile	Left	Leapt	Strife	Stripe

In Phrases

A cup of coffee, please offer him an apple, the cup's half empty keeps a fast pace please pass the fruit, the first place prize, fair play or foul play' pay the piper

In Sentences

Stand up and face the press, Mr. President.

In Faye's days, the phrase was "Flower Power " The fish were fresh from the produce shelf. Fools laugh now, but they will pay later

Fran's plan was referred to the higher-ups.

The party's at a quarter past four.

"Get off the phone, Fred," snapped _Father. Paul can't help fumbling the football. "That's enough, Penny," replied Mr. Phillips.

In Poetry

Taffy was a Welshman; Taffy was a thief.

Taffy came to my house and stole a leg of beef. I went to Taffy's house,

Taffy was in bed

I took the leg of beef and bopped him on the head

Simple Simon met a pieman going to the fair

Said Simple Simon to the pieman, "Let me taste your ware." Said the pieman to Simple Simon, "Show me first your penny "Said Simple Simon to the pieman, "Indeed I have not any "

Adjective Phrases

An Adjective phrase is any phrase that has an adjective as its head and that can occupy the same position as a single adjective in a noun phrase or fill the same slot as a single adjective in a sentence.

- Her behaviour was unbelievable. (adjective)
- Her behaviour was absolutely unbelievable. (Adjective phrase)
- We considered her behaviour unacceptable. (adjective)
- We considered her behaviour completely unacceptable. (Adjective phrase)
- It was a happy marriage. (adjective)
- It was a very happy marriage. (adjective phrase)

The head of an adjective phrase is the adjective in that phrase:

Absolutely unbelievable

Quite good

Really easy

Strong enough

Function of Adjective Phrases

Like Adjectives, adjective phrase has two main functions,

(i) Adjective Phrases modify nouns:

- A very exciting proposal
- a surprisingly easy exam
- a good enough result

(ii) Adjective phrases function as subject-complements or object-complements:

- Her proposal was very exciting.

- The results were good enough.
- You've made us very proud.
- That was awfully silly of you, wasn't it?
- Let's consider the subject pretty well closed.
- Pat the fruit completely dry with some kitchen paper.

Adjective Phrases and Adjectival Phrases

Adjective phrases are sometimes called adjectival phrases but to avoid confusion,

the two terms are best kept separate.

An Adjective phrase is a phrase that has an adjective as its head:

- I was absolutely amazed at what I saw.
- The dog was extremely protective of her baby.
- She was wearing quite ridiculous shoes.
- Can't you find something more sensible to do?

An Adjectival Phrase, on the other hand, is any phrase that can function like an adjective, for example by modifying a noun. Not only adjective phrases, therefore, but also noun phrases, prepositional phrases, and other types of phrase can be classed as 'adjectival phrases'.

We had a five-hour delay at the airport

- It was very much a last-minute. decision.
- This is a good example of a 15th century castle.
- Our company believes in on-the-job training.
- We've done an in-depth survey

- I must have reliable, up-to-date information.
- I need a fast-acting medicine. Spelling Note

Notice that adjective phrases preceding the nouns they modify, do not need hyphens

- An absolutely incredible idea
- A strong enough piece of wood
- A widely held belief
- Socially unacceptable behaviour

The other types of Adjectival phrases are hyphenated when they precede the nouns they are modifying

- an up-to-date report
- a slow-moving vehicle

However sometimes a hyphen is added between an adverb ending in -/y and an adjective when what is being expressed is felt to be a single idea:

- mentally-handicapped children
- a lightly-boiled egg

And if the adverb is well, better, best, ill, worse or worst, or ahy adverb (such as fast or little) that might be confused with an adjective because it doesn't end in -/y, then there must be a hyphen:

- a well-known writer
- the best-loved make of car
- an ill-conceived plan
- a fast-acting medicine
- a little-known fact

In other position, hyphens are not needed:

- she is well known as a writer.

Exercise

A. Underline the adjective phrases in the following sentences:

1. That wasn't very sensible, was it?
2. Exercise is very good for you.
3. We knew we were totally lost.
4. She's absolutely impervious to criticism.
5. The trees were completely covered in golden leaves.
6. We're very proud of our children.
7. I'm really surprised at your behaviour.
8. How on earth can you be feeling so calm about all this?
9. There is an extremely small risk of contamination.
10. We were utterly exhausted.

B. Some of the adjectives in the sentences above have complements, identify these complements.

Ans:

2. Exercise is very good for you.
4. She's absolutely impervious to criticism.
5. The trees were completely covered in golden leaves.
6. We're very proud of our children.

7. I'm really surprised at your behaviour.

8. How on earth can you be feeling so calm about all this?

9. There is an extremely small risk of contamination.

C. Underline the adjectival phrases in the following sentence, and add hyphens where necessary.

1. A first past the post voting system means that the candidate who gets the most votes wins.

Ans: A first-past-the-post voting system means that the candidate who gets the most votes wins.

2. The most sensible way of going about this would be to borrow the money from a bank.

Ans: The most sensible way of going about this would be to borrow the money, from a bank.

3. This is all in one solution to all your decorating problems.

Ans: This is all-in-one solution to all your decorating problems.

4. The country has a serious balance of payments problem.

Ans: The country has a serious balance-of-payments problem.

5. She's a totally normal teenager.

Ans: She's a totally normal teenager.

6. There was something strangely familiar about the man.

Ans: There was something strangely familiar about the man.

7. Meeting the president was a never to be forgotten experience.

Ans: Meeting the president was a never-to-be-forgotten, experience.

8. She glanced at him with an Oh my goodness look on her face.

Ans: She glanced at him with an Oh my goodness look on her face.