

A BICYCLE IN GOOD REPAIR

[Comprehension Check]

Question 1. “I got up early, for me.” It implies that

- (i) he was an early riser.
- (ii) he was a late riser.
- (iii) he got up late that morning.

Mark the correct answer.

Answer: (ii) he was a late riser.

Question 2. The bicycle “goes easily enough in the morning and a little stiffly after lunch.” The remark is _____.

- (i) humorous.
- (ii) inaccurate.
- (iii) sarcastic.
- (iv) enjoyable.
- (v) meaningless.

Answer: (i) humorous

Question 3. The friend shook the bicycle violently. Find two or three sentences in the text which express the author’s disapproval of it.

Answer: The sentences which express the author’s disapproval are:

“Don’t do that; you’ll hurt it.”

It doesn’t if you don’t wobble it.”

“Don’t you trouble about it anymore”

Question 4. “...if not, it would make a serious difference to the machine.” What does ‘it’ refer to?

Answer: It refers to the ball bearings of the bicycle.

Working with the text

Question 1. Did the front wheel really wobble? What is your opinion? Give a reason for your answer.

Answer: No, the front wheel did not wobble much. The author says “It didn’t wobble, as a matter of fact—nothing worth calling a wobble.”

Question 2. In what condition did the author find the bicycle when he returned from the tool shed?

Answer: When the author returned from tool shed he saw his friend was sitting on the ground with the front wheel between his legs. He was playing with it, twiddling it round between his fingers; the remnant of the machine was lying on the gravel path beside him.

Question 3. “Nothing is easier than taking off the gear-case.” Comment on or continue this sentence in the light of what actually happens.

Answer: The author told him that once his experienced friend said that, “If anything goes wrong with your gear-case, sell the machine and buy a new one; it comes cheaper.” But his friend doesn’t take it seriously and continues to take off the gear-case. Later, he was unable to put back the gear-case in its proper place.

Question 4. What special treatment did the chain receive?

Answer: The author’s friend tightened the chain so much that it stopped moving completely. Then he began to loosen it. He loosened it until it became twice as loose as it was before.

Question 5. The friend has two qualities — he knows what he is doing and is absolutely sure it is good. Find the two phrases in the text which mean the same.

Answer: The two phrases are:

- Cheery confidence
- Inexplicable hopefulness

Question 6. Describe ‘the fight’ between the man and the machine. Find the relevant sentences in the text and write them.

Answer: The author’s bicycle did not need any treatment. It was in a good condition but the friend of the author made it a big deal and messed it up. He actually made it such that now it would need a lot of repair.

One moment the bicycle would be on the gravel path, and he on top of it; the next, the position would be reversed— he on the gravel path, the bicycle on him. Now he would be standing flushed with victory, the bicycle firmly fixed between his legs. But his triumph would be short-lived. By a sudden, quick movement it would free itself and, turning upon him, hit him sharply over the head with one of its handles.