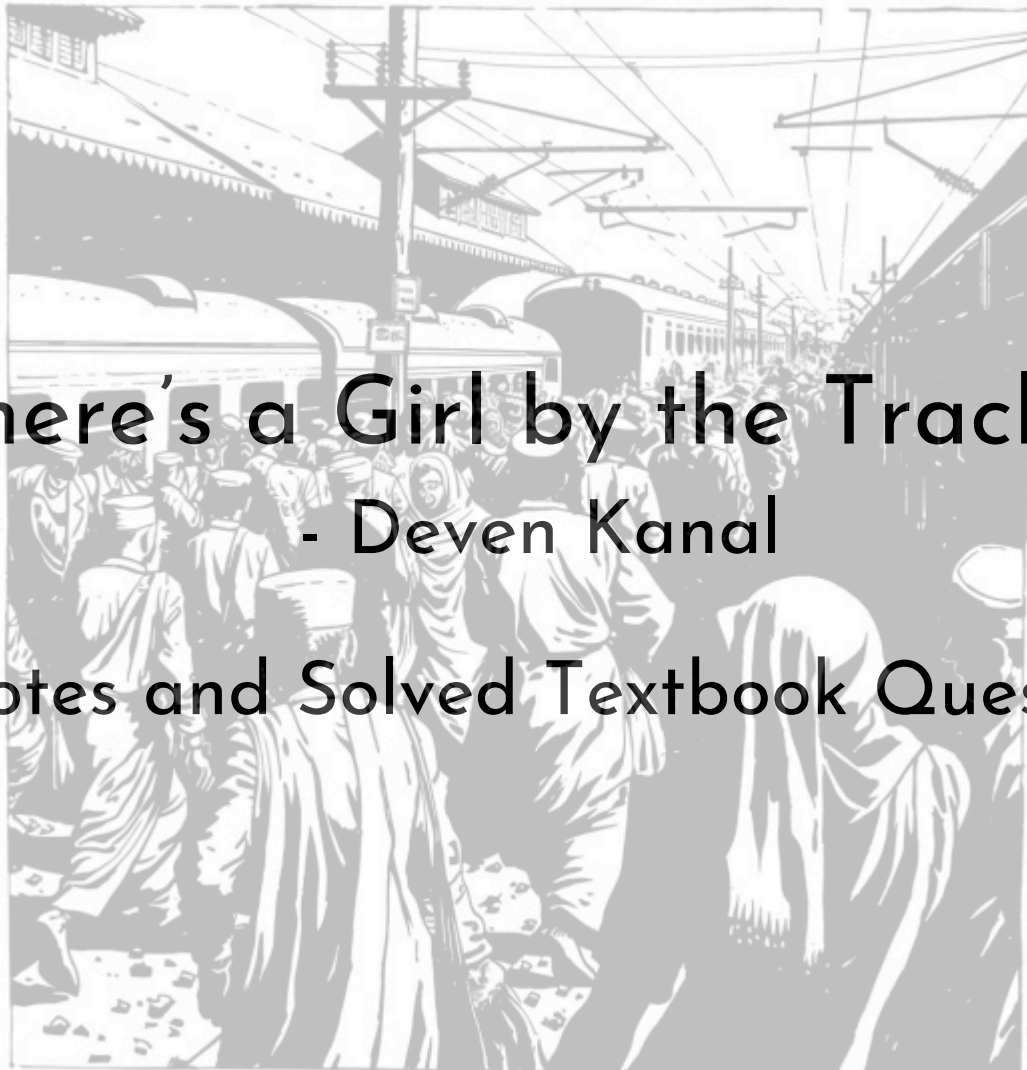


There's a Girl by the Tracks!

- Deven Kanal

Notes and Solved Textbook Questions



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CHAPTER SUMMARY

Character Name	Age	Profession	Educational Qualification	State they belonged to
1. Roma Talreja	21 years old	Call Centre Executive	B. Com	Pune, Maharashtra
2. Baleshwar Mishra	20 years old	Unemployed	High School dropout	Mirzapur, UP
3. Driver	Middle-aged	Tempo truck driver	Unknown	Gujarat

Incident Date: December 10, 2010

Incident Day: Friday

Incident Time: After 6:30 PM

- On her way back home from work, Roma Talreja falls from an overcrowded train between two stations in Thane district, on the borders of Mumbai.
- Baleshwar Mishra was travelling back home in the opposite direction after meeting a friend. Seeing Roma's fall, he pulls the emergency chain and jumps onto the tracks to help.
- Baleshwar carries the unconscious Roma to the road where he implores motorists to help him take her to the hospital.
- After being ignored at first, a Gujarati speaking tempo truck driver stops and helps take Roma and Baleshwar to the nearest small hospital.
- The duty physician administers first aid and recommends that they move Roma to a hospital with more facilities.
- Roma briefly wakes up and shares the contact details of her brother Dinesh Talreja.
- Upon getting Baleshwar's call, Dinesh rushes to the hospital from the retail outlet in Ulhasnagar, where he held a marketing job.
- Dr. Anil Agarwal, the medical director of Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital and Research Centre admitted Roma to the ICU without any paperwork upon seeing the extent of her injuries.
- Roma's X-rays showed that despite the severe appearance of her wounds, she only needed deep wound sutures. There would be no lasting damage.
- However, the doctor believed that if she hadn't reached the hospital on time, she could have bled to death.
- Roma's brother and fiancé visited her in the hospital.
- Baleshwar revisited the incident spot the next day to collect her belongings.
- Although extremely grateful for Baleshwar's courage and helpful attitude, Roma was astonished that a stranger would go to such lengths to help a stranger.
- Baleshwar was surprised that more people didn't step up to help an injured person. He thought that people were afraid of being inconvenienced by the police and the courts. He concluded that people should help each other in times of need.

Check your Understanding Questions - Solved

Check your Understanding - I

1. "It's a regular scene." What was regular about the scene? (para - 1)

Answer: Commuters rushing to get into the overcrowded local trains was a regular scene.

2. "Roma Talreja tried to settle into a corner near the door in the train." Was she right in doing this? What would you have done if you were there?

Answer: Settling near the open door of a moving vehicle is risky and so Roma shouldn't have done this. If I were there, I would've tried to squeeze deeper into the compartment or, if I weren't in a rush, waited for the next train.

3. "There's a girl by the tracks," the voices cried out. Whose voices do you think those were?

Answer: The people travelling in the same train compartment as Baleshwar cried out "There's a girl by the tracks".

**4. Baleshwar was impulsive in taking a decision because.....
(Fill in the blank appropriately.) (para - 3)**

Answer: ...He wanted to help Roma.

5. The dictionary says 'callous' means 'unconcerned'. In this situation, who do you think were 'callous' towards the accident?

Answer: I think all the people who saw Roma fall off the train and did nothing to help were 'callous'.

6. 'Baleshwar rushed to help the girl.' His movement has been described with verbs like 'shoved'. Identify two more such verbs/verbal phrases in paragraph (5).

Answer: Two other verbs are:

- "Jumped off" and
- "Started to sprint"

Check your Understanding - II

1. Where did Baleshwar find Roma at last?

Answer: Baleshwar ran back the way the way the train was travelling and he found Roma sprawled by the side of the tracks.

2. "Behenji, aap theek hai?" But there was no response and no help in sight. Why was it so? Read paragraph 6 and answer.

Answer: Roma had fallen off a moving train and was unconscious, and hence couldn't respond to Baleshwar. She had fallen in a place between two stations five kilometers apart in Thane district which bordered Mumbai which is why no help was in sight.

3. Fill in the table with appropriate details.

Answer:

Name	Age	Education	State they belong to	Profession	Reasons for boarding the train
Roma Talreja	21	B. Com	Pune, Maharashtra	Call Centre Executive	Returning home from work
Baleshwar Mishra	20	High School dropout	Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh	Unemployed	Returning home after meeting a friend

Check your Understanding - III

1. Who volunteered to help Baleshwar?

Answer: A Gujrati speaking, middle-aged tempo truck driver volunteered to help Baleshwar.

2. "Roma stirred and her eyes fluttered open." What could have made her react so?

Answer: After first aid was administered, Roma was taken back to the tempo truck to transport her to a nearby hospital. As the vehicle started, it lurched forward which caused Roma to stir and flutter her eyes open.

3. Some details of Roma's brother are given in paragraph 14. Read and fill in the columns appropriately.

Answer:

Name	Job	Place	Vehicle
Dinesh Talreja	Marketing job in a retail outlet	Ulhasnagar	Motorcycle

Check you Understanding - IV

1. "Oh, I couldn't thank him," Baleshwar thought. Who do you think he couldn't thank?

Answer: Baleshwar couldn't thank the tempo truck driver as he had left when Roma was being admitted at Divine Multispeality Hospital. He was the only person who had agreed to help Baleshwar when many others ignored him.

2. Why did Baleshwar revisit the spot where Roma had fallen?

Answer: Roma's brother Dinesh Talreja had informed Baleshwar that her handbag and cell phone were missing. Baleshwar revisited the spot where Roma had fallen to retrieve her missing belongings.

3. Baleshwar got some assurance from a railway employee. What was that?

Answer: A railway employee who was near the spot where Roma had fallen assured Baleshwar that some of Roma's belongings had been found.

4. Roma said, "I think it's astonishing". What was astonishing?

Answer: Baleshwar almost risked his life, jumping off a moving train. He then carried Roma and walked for quite a distance, pleaded with strangers for help, rushed her first to a small hospital and then to a bigger hospital and informed her brother of the situation. Baleshwar also stayed till Roma's brother and fiancé arrived and

revisited the incident spot to try and retrieve Roma's missing belonging. It was astonishing to Roma that somebody would go to such lengths to help a stranger.

Textbook Exercise Questions - Solved

Think about the Text

1. Some incidents relating to Roma Talreja are given below. Put them in the right order.

- a. Roma lost her foothold.
- b. The train hurtled ahead.
- c. Roma was thrown out of the coach.
- d. Roma was jammed between two women.
- e. Roma panicked.

Answer: d. Roma was jammed between two women.

- b. The train hurtled ahead.
- a. Roma lost her foothold.
- e. Roma panicked.
- c. Roma was thrown out of the coach.

2. Baleshwar jumped into action to save the girl. His actions in doing so are given in a jumbled manner. Set them in the right sequence, as in the text.

- a. Baleshwar crossed the track.
- b. He carried the girl.
- c. He saw the girl bleeding.
- d. He requested motorists to help him.
- e. He prayed silently.

Answer: c. He saw the girl bleeding.

- e. He prayed silently.
- b. He carried the girl.
- a. Baleshwar crossed the track.
- d. He requested motorists to help him.

3. Write briefly the personal details such as qualification and Profession of Roma Talreja and Baleshwar Mishra after discussion with your classmates.

Answer: Roma Talreja was a twenty-one-year-old B. Com graduate from Pune, Maharashtra. She was a call center executive who loved her job. Baleshwar Mishra was a twenty-year-old high school dropout from Mirzapur, Uttar Pradesh who had come to Mumbai hoping to find a job without much success.

4. "Take the girl to Airoli," suggested the cop. But Baleshwar disagreed. Why did he do so?

Answer: Airoli was ten kilometers away from where Baleshwar was, and Roma had a bleeding head wound. Since time was of essence, Baleshwar didn't want to travel far and hence disagreed with the cop.

5. Some incidents mentioned in paragraph 12 are given in a jumbled order below. Arrange them sequentially.

- a. The on - duty physician advised Baleshwar to take Roma to a nearby hospital.
- b. Baleshwar and Roma Talreja arrived at a small hospital.
- c. The nurses in the hospital helped Baleshwar to take the young woman in.
- d. The hospital lacked the facility and personnel to treat Roma.

Answer: b. Baleshwar and Roma Talreja arrived at a small hospital.

- c. The nurses in the hospital helped Baleshwar to take the young woman in.
- d. The hospital lacked the facility and personnel to treat Roma.

a. The on - duty physician advised Baleshwar to take Roma to a nearby hospital.

6. Was Baleshwar right in asking Roma her name while she lay in a critical condition? Justify your answer.

Answer: Yes, Baleshwar was right in asking Roma her name. He needed to identify her and inform her next of kin. Also, in case of head wounds, checking whether she could remember details and speak clearly is a good test of the severity of the injury.

7. "Baleshwar had a good memory." Do you agree? Give examples to support your view.

Answer: I agree that Baleshwar had a good memory. Despite not being from the area of the incident, Baleshwar could remember that Airoli was 10 kilometers away and that there was a small hospital nearby. He quickly memorized the cellphone number that Roma recited before she fell unconscious. Baleshwar also remembered the spot of the incident, even though it happened in a random spot between two stations, as he returned the next day to search for Roma's missing belongings.

8. The doctor at the Divine Multi - Speciality hospital admitted Roma without any formalities. What made him do so?

Answer: Dr. Anil Agarwal, the medical director at Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital saw the extent of Roma's injuries and hence admitted her to the ICU without any paperwork.

9. If Baleshwar had not come forward to help Roma, what would have happened to her?

Answer: If Baleshwar had not come forward to help Roma, she could have bled to death.

10. How did the truck driver help Baleshwar?

Answer: The tempo truck driver transported Roma and Baleshwar, first to the small hospital where first aid was administered and later to Divine Multi-Speciality Hospital. The driver also lent his mobile phone to Baleshwar so that he could call Roma's brother to inform him of the situation.

11. Baleshwar felt that people of Mumbai were afraid. What were they afraid of, in his opinion?

Answer: According to Baleshwar the people of Mumbai were reluctant to help those in need because they are afraid of getting trapped by the police or in the courts.

12. The Dalai Lama says, "Love and compassion are the true religions to me. But to develop this, we do not need to believe in any religion." Does this relate to the lesson "There is a Girl by the Tracks". How? Discuss with your friends.

Answer: The story "There's a Girl by the Tracks!" is about a girl, Roma, who has an unfortunate accident where she falls off the local train. A youth, Baleshwar, risks his life and leaves no stone unturned to get Roma the help she needs. He even goes beyond norm to stay till Roma's relatives arrive and returns to the scene of accident to search for her lost belongings. Baleshwar did all this for a complete stranger who was not even travelling in the same train as him. Roma's life would've been in danger if no one had helped her. Baleshwar showed the true meaning of love and compassion. He did this out of genuine desire to help someone in need and hence displayed true humanity. This relates to the quote by the Dalai Lama.

Enrich your Vocabulary

Task 1: Verbs related to different actions are given below. Pick them and put them in their respective columns. Note that some words may fit into more than one column. Refer to a dictionary if necessary.

grab, pray, squeeze, glance, chat, snatch, plead, peep, beg, shove, talk, clutch, implore, rush, stare, hold, appeal, dash, gaze, articulate, run, speak, ask, look, go

Words related to

Answer:

Observing	Moving	Holding	Speaking	Requesting
1. Glance	1. Shove	1. Grab	1. Chat	1. Pray
2. Peep	2. Rush	2. Squeeze	2. Beg	2. Plead
3. Stare	3. Dash	3. Snatch	3. Talk	3. Implore
4. Gaze	4. Run	4. Clutch	4. Articulate	4. Appeal
5. Look	5. Go	5. Hold	5. Speak	5. Ask

Task 2: Use the above words meaningfully to fill in the blanks in the following sentences. You can change the form of the word if required. One example is given.

Answer:

1. Five of us squeezed ourselves into the back seats.
2. English people love to chat about the weather.
3. Arun held Shaila close and wiped away her tears.
4. I haven't spoken to Steve about all this.
5. All club members have been asked to attend the annual meeting.
6. Sudha glanced over her shoulder.
7. The thief has snatched away her purse and ran.
8. Would you mind going to fetch the kids from school?
9. Veena asked me to fetch water.
10. Many people are unable to articulate the unhappiness they feel.

Look at these sentences used in the text, as also the phrases underlined.

- 'Who can I call?' asked Baleshwar fearing she would black out once more. (para - 13)
- A nurse helped him to take the woman in. (para - 12)
- Dinesh was wrapping up his day's work when his phone rang. (para - 14)

Look at the underlined words. Their meanings are different from the ordinary meanings of each separate word. For example, black out means lose consciousness, take the woman in means admit the woman and wrapping up means closing the business.

Task 3: A paragraph is given below based on the text. Some words are underlined. Substitute these words with the phrases and idioms making use of the clues given in brackets with necessary changes or additions.


Baleshwar Mishra was a bold young man. Even when his life was at risk (face-to-face ---- death), he never had a second thought. Rather he determined (make ---- mind) to save the life of the girl. He was doing all he could, while others stood watching him silently (tongue tie). None supported (back ---- up) except a tempo truck driver. After a while, he carried the girl to a hospital and forced (arm twist) the duty doctor to admit the girl. What can we make out from this incident? Some people like Baleshwar remain undisturbed (keep cool) in moments of crisis.

Answer: Baleshwar Mishra was a bold young man. Even when he was face to face with death, he never had a second thought. Rather he made up his mind to save the life of the girl. He was doing all he could, while others stood watching him tongue tied. None backed him up except a tempo truck driver. After a while, he carried the girl to a hospital and twisted the arm of the duty doctor to admit the girl. What can we make out from this incident? Some people like Baleshwar keep their cool in moments of crisis.

Note: The words are given in brackets in the above task. What is the underlying or common feature of all the idioms and the phrases? (e.g.: face-to-face with death, made up his mind)

Read and respond

Task 1: Look at the picture 1 in column 'A'. Some statements are made in column 'B' about the actions as seen in 'A'. Some of the statements are wrong, and some of them are right. If they are wrong, correct them. If they are right mark (✓).

'A'	'B'
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A woman is walking alone. Right () / Wrong () Corrected: A woman is walking with a child. 2. Some children are playing cricket. 3. Three cows are seen in the picture. 4. The window pane is broken. 5. A child is holding a tree. 6. There is a river in the picture. 7. In the background, there is a forest.

Answer:

2. Some children are playing cricket. Right (✓) / Wrong ()
Corrected: No correction required.

3. Three cows are seen in the picture. Right () / Wrong (x)
Corrected: One cow is seen in the picture.

4. The window pane is broken. Right (✓) / Wrong ()
Corrected: No correction required.

5. A child is holding a tree. Right (✓) / Wrong ()
Corrected: No correction required.

6. There is a river in the picture. Right () / Wrong (x)
Corrected: There is a village in the picture.

7. In the background, there is a forest. Right () / Wrong (x)
Corrected: In the background, there is a place of worship and a few houses.

Task 2: Look at the picture - 2. Try to describe what you can see in the picture. Some clues are given. One is done for you.



**a. There/many/people/picture.
There are many people in the picture.**

b. some people/march procession.

c. child/draw/bow.

d. two/women/chat.

e. some/children/run.

f. a man/sell/ balloons.

Answer:

b. Some people are marching in a procession in the picture.

c. A child is drawing a bow in the picture.

d. Two women are chatting in the picture.

e. Some children are running in the picture.

f. A man is selling balloons in the picture.

Practise Writing

Task 2: Work in pairs and write a letter to the editor's column, focussing on the problems of your locality.

Answer:

Shradha Kumar
#4, Manjunatha Layout
8th Cross Road,
HSR Layout
Bengaluru

17th July, 2024

The Editor,
The Bengaluru Paper
HSR Layout, Bengaluru

Respected Ma'am,

Subject: Highlighting issues in the locality.

I, Shradha Kumar of HSR Layout, am writing this letter to highlight a few issues that have lately increased in our locality.

The dustbins in our area was removed to be replaced as part of the "Clean your Neighbourhood" initiative and hasn't been replaced yet. Due to this, people are dumping garbage in the area where the dustbind used to be. Animals are gathering to scavenge, pests are breeding and the stench is making the area unbearable to walk through. The authorities aren't responding to our repeated letters.

I'm enclosing a few photographs. Kindly publish the problem in the next issue of the paper so that it is highlighted and brought to the attention of the people in charge.

Thanking You.

Yours sincerely,



(Shradha Kumar)

Task 3: Prepare a questionnaire.

Imagine you are a correspondent of an English daily and you have to interview the following persons on the issue 'Safety measures taken with regard to traffic and the public response'.

1. Superintendent of Police
2. Traffic Inspector and
3. Local MLA.

Prepare a set of questions to interview each one of the above. One example is done for you.

Note: Only questions for the interview are given, not the replies.

1. Good morning Sir/Madam. I'm Kumar. I'm a reporter from an English daily.
2. Sir/Madam, I've some questions. Could you spare some time for me, please?
3. In recent days, traffic is usually heavy. Accidents are on the increase. May I know what measures have been taken in this regard?

4. There are potholes on roads almost everywhere. How do you think we can prevent accidents?
5. Well, Sir/Madam, what do you suggest to the public to maintain road safety?
6. Banners, buntings and advertisements are a nuisance in maintaining safety on roads. Your comments please.
7. Youths, especially teens, drive erratically. What advice would you like to give them?
8. Sir/Madam, on behalf of the media I'm highly thankful to you.

Answer:

2. Traffic Inspector

- i. Good morning, Inspector. Thank you for taking the time today to answer a few questions. I'm Shradha Kumar, intern at The Bengaluru Paper.
- ii. What is your opinion on the current traffic situation in Bengaluru.
- iii. What do you think are the major causes of the hour - long traffic jams in certain parts of the city.
- iv. What are the solutions to these issues?
- v. What solutions are currently being implemented? How effective are these measures? Do you think it will be enough to solve the problem?
- vi. What can the public do to contribute towards a resolution?

3. Local MLA

- i. Good morning, MLA Sir. Congratulations on winning the election again and thank you for agreeing to answer a few questions. I'm Shradha Kumar, intern at The Bengaluru Paper.
- ii. What are some issues in your constituency that you are going to immediately focus on?
- iii. What are the solutions to these issues?
- iv. Some of these issues have been going on for quite some time, why were they not resolved earlier?
- v. What steps are you going to take to ensure that no repeat obstacles come in the way of resolving the issue.
- vi. What message would you like to give your voters, who have shown confidence in you for another term?

Learn grammar through communication

Task 1: Read the following paragraph and carefully observe the words underlined. One word is struck off. Consult your teacher or a grammar book and know the reason.

Everybody know/knows 'slow and steady win/wins the race'. Somebody try/tries to move slowly but some people want/wants to move at a faster pace. One of the students in my class is/are Jairaj. He is very industrious and energetic. He feels that in India everybody want/wants to get success, but a few work/works diligently. They opine/opines that time wait/waits for none. So everybody need/needs to work round the clock to make India stronger and better.

Task 2: Choose the correct verb out of the two given in brackets:

1. Neither he nor you ----- wrong. (is/are)

Answer: is

2. His father and uncle ----- their own business. (has/have)

Answer: have

3. The first innings ----- very interesting. (was/were)

Answer: was

4. Either Amrutha or her friends ----- taken it. (has/have)

Answer: have

5. Every one of the boys ----- sitting silent in the hall. (was/were)

Answer: was

6. Every leaf ----- fallen from this tree. (has/have)

Answer: has

7. Each of the boys ----- done his homework. (has/have)

Answer: has

8. He, as well as you, ----- intelligent. (is /are)

Answer: is

9. Bread and butter ----- his daily diet. (were/ was)

Answer: were

10. Either you or he ----- done it. (has / have)

Answer: has

11. One of the boys ----- punished. (was/ were)

Answer: was

12. Neither the children nor their mothers ----- admitted to hospital.
(were/was)

Answer: were

Task 3: Read the following paragraph. A blank is Provided after each number.
If the underlined word is correct write (C) in the blank.

If the underlined word is wrong, write the right form of the word in the blank.

Answer:

Everyone who have (1) e.g., has ever been to a graduation ceremony know (2) knows how exciting it can be for the graduates. In our town, nearly the whole population comes (3) C each year. There are (4) is one thing that both graduates and guests enjoy (5) C, the awarding of scholarships.

This ceremony, along with concluding exercises makes (6) C attending the graduation worthwhile. Several of the students who receives (7) receive awards plan (8) C to attend the community college. Many former graduates is (9) are grateful for opportunities that such an award provides (10) C to them.

Make Reference

Study the meanings of a word given in a dictionary.

compose (verb) composed, com·pos·ing - (transitive verb)

1. consist of

2. combine together to form

3. *make up*
4. *write a piece of music*
5. *write a letter or poem*
6. *try hard to become calm after feeling very angry, upset or excited*
7. *to arrange the parts of a painting, photograph or scene in a way that achieves a particular result.*

Task 1: Some sentences are given below. In each sentence the word 'compose' is used. Identify the meaning given above and write the corresponding number in the boxes.

Answer:

1. Nayana sat at the desk, taking several deep breaths to compose herself. (6)
 2. Water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen. (2)
 3. A.R.Rehaman has composed music for the film Kocchadian. (4)
 4. The legal system is composed of people and people make legal system. (1)
 5. More than 17.6 million firms composed the business sector of our economy. (3)
 6. I like the way Ravi composes his photographs. (7)
-
-