



Unit 1 Prose

Learning the Game

Sachin Tendulkar



Warm Up

Think of what you would like to do in future. Fill in the spaces.

My Goals	
Timeline	Action Plans
2023	
20....	
20.... - 20....	
20.... - 20....	
2040 Onwards	

From a very early age, I played tennis-ball cricket with my colony friends. I loved watching cricket on television and in our games, I often tried to **emulate** the mannerisms of my favourite players, Sunil Gavaskar and the West Indian legend Viv Richards. But it wasn't just the batsmen that I studied. I also loved bowling. Throughout my career, I have actually bowled a lot in the nets.

I was then studying in the New English School, Mumbai. But my brother Ajit knew that compared to other schools in Mumbai, Shardashram Vidhyamandir where Ramakant Achrekar Sir was the cricket coach, gave due importance to the game of cricket. He ran summer camps too. Ajit, one day, took me to the camp to get trained under Sir. Anyone could come for a trial at the camp; but then, it was up to Sir to decide who to accept. I was eleven years old then. Achrekar Sir, as I refer to him, started playing cricket at the age of eleven in 1943, which is the age I was when I went to him for the first time.

- Who were Sachin's favourite players?
- What was special about Shardashram Vidyamandir in Mumbai?

I had never batted in the nets before and felt somewhat **overawed** with so many people around. When I was asked to bat, I was not at all comfortable. With Sir watching me so closely, I failed to make an impact. Sir called Ajit aside and informed him that I was perhaps too young to make the camp and suggested that he should bring me back when I was a little older. My **induction** into the Mumbai cricket circuit could have ended in failure – but for Ajit's insistence. Having seen me play in the colony, Ajit knew I was capable of performing far better than I had done in front of Achrekar Sir. He explained that I was nervous and asked Sir to give me one more opportunity. However, he suggested that while doing so, Sir should pretend to go away and then watch from a distance. Sir agreed. Before long, I was asked to bat again and, without Sir's trained