

# COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

English enjoys a unique position in India and its use is considered a status symbol, a sign of modernity and the privilege of the elite. The seeds for this language were sown in 1600, with the advent of the East India Company and the Christian Missionaries. English became prevalent by 1800 through the English medium schools and convents. {#Thomas Babington MACAULAY'S "MINUTE ON INDIAN EDUCATION"}. LORD Macaulay's dream of creating a group of bilinguals in India, " A class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern – a class of persons, Indians in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinion, in morals and in intellect," did not fully materialize as the curtain dropped on the British Raj in India. The British left, but their rich legacy– The English language, remains even to this day – 60 years after independence. It is a great advantage to us in this country in the context of globalised economy.

Post-Colonial India evolved a new language called Indian English. The Indian speaker who is not born to this language thinks in his own mother tongue – Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu and so on and tries to translate his thoughts directly into English. The English thus moulded, modified and evolved, is tinted with the vibrant hues of his socio cultural background and flavoured with the regional tones and accents. It is heterogeneous and innovative, but it is also amusing and some times puzzling to the English. The term "*Indian English*" is used derogatively and the 'elitists', the old timers who take pride in using standard British English, raise eye brows and display 'Smirks of disdain' when they hear the Indian

English. How does one define this language? It is English spoken, written and used by the common Indian, who takes liberty with the syntax, semantics and etymology of the language.

### **COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH**

The native speaker of Indian languages commits errors in almost all areas of English, like grammar, usage, syntax etc.

In Grammar the tenses add to the tension, the prepositions run helter skelter in search of their proper positions but mostly in vain. The articles come and go as they please. The adverbs add to the confusion.

The usage of English (Indian English) is very interesting. Certain words wear a new garb and are used in a different sense. The English prefixes / suffixes hug the Indian words, and new expressions are born. Indian words enter the English dictionaries.

Tautology, repetition, malapropism, truncation -all contribute their humble mite to increase the ambiguity of Indian English.

### **Syntax**

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate dictionary defines Syntax as, ' a connected or orderly system; harmonious arrangement of parts or elements; the way in which words are put together to form phrases, clauses or sentences; the part of grammar dealing with this'

Grammar decides the accuracy of a language and a sound grammatical knowledge is essential for well structured sentences. The Indians commit errors while using verbs, adding question tags, answering yes or no questions, using articles, prepositions etc.

### **Tense – using progressive tense for static verbs**

#### ***Wrong usage***

- *I am loving the entire experience of writing*
- *She is knowing the answer*

#### **Correct usage**

- I love the entire experience of writing.
- She knows the answer

The native speaker of Indian languages may not find the following expression odd.

**Wrong**

*He is having very much property*

*The food is tasting very good*

**Correct**

- He has a lot of property.

- The food tastes good.

As per the grammar rules, words of perception, possession and emotions / feelings do not take the progressive tense.

**Tensions or tenses?****Wrong usage**

*I did not went there*

*I did not cried when I saw the movie.*

**Correct usage**

I did not go there

I did not cry when I saw the movie

**Did never takes the past tense****Skipping of verbs**

People often say -

What I did?

Where he went?

**Instead of –**

What did I do? Where did he go?

Sometimes we find the following word order in questions. What you would like to eat? Where you would be going in holidays?

**Instead of –**

What would you like to eat?

Where would you be going in holidays?

The inversion that should take place has not taken place

In a statement subject precedes the verb. In an interrogative statement subject and verbs are inverted

**Eg:** You went there? (is wrong structure).

Instead to be separated from Did you go there?

(is structurally correct.)

**Questions****Tag Questions**

Tag question consists of two words, a tensed and an auxiliary verb and a personal pronoun. The verb is basically a copy of the host's root verb. But typically n't is either added or deleted.

**Eg:** It was raining, was n't. It?

He did not complete the work, did he?

He completed the work, did n't he?

Most of the time Instead of using the proper question tags – Is n't, it? -no? etc., are used

**Indian usage-**

She sings very melodiously, is n't it?

He is very lazy, no?

She completed the work, did she?

**Correct usage:**

She sings very melodiously, does n't she?

He is very lazy, is n't he?

She completed the work, did n't she?

**Answer to the Question content -**

yes, I did /

no, I did n't

Look at the following examples:

Do you mind closing the window? Yes, I do

The speaker means that he does n't mind and he will close the window.

A question like – “Did you go on leave?” may sometimes elicit a response like – “yes, I did n't ; instead of “no I didn't

**Nouns – Number**

Certain nouns are always to be used as plural and some always as singular. The following nouns do not take the plural number.

- He has lots of luggages
- His hairs are standing out

I have many works to do

He gives many advices

Expression like the following are common in India

His poetries have a depth

The sceneries of Kodaikanal are breath taking

The machineries are rusted

Grammatically the following usage is correct

Scenery - or some scenes

Poetry - or a collection of poems

Machinery - or many machines

Expressions like :patience,  
stuff,  
wine

are not prefixed by many, few, some etc.

words like much, a lot of,  
little, a little, some etc.

are to be prefixed to these uncountable nouns.

Singular nouns are used for objects/ subjects which are always to be referred in plural by some Indians

Social studies becomes: Social Study

Mathematics becomes math/maths/max

## Articles

Omitting the articles or using them where they are not required is a common error in Indian English.

**Eg:** I went to village or I went to temple instead of – I went to the village

Using 'one' in place of 'a' is also common

Let me tell you one story

One kind lady came to me

Indians sometimes use the following expressions

**Wrong usage**

*A honest man*

*An European*

*An University*

*An one eyed man*

**Correct usage**

an honest man

a European

a University

a one eyed man

*See appendix*

**FOLLOWING SENTENCES CONTAIN ERRORS**

He is more taller than his brother

He is awarded Padmashri for his most excellent Contribution to tribal welfare

There are many unique instances of the same kind.

Of the two brothers, he is the best.

These are some of the expressions in English Language as it is spoken in India.

Grammarians insist that two comparatives and two superlatives should not be used in the same sentence.

**Eg:** more taller

In the same way words like unique, excellent, rare, universal, perfect etc. do not take any other degree of the adjective

But writers take liberties with grammar and we come across expressions like rarest of the rare. Well Known writers like Shakespeare used the expression, "This is the most unkindest cut of all", two superlatives"

(Julius ceasar – Mark Antony’s speech)

**Prepositions**

Three types of errors occur while using the preposition, - using a wrong preposition, using a preposition where it is not required, not using a preposition where it is necessary. Following are a few examples of these.

Let us discuss about the issue

He grieved the death of his friend

Pay attention on my words

### Correct usage

Let us discuss the issue

He grieved over the death of his friend

Pay attention to my words

when the part of speech changes, the prepositions change

a person may order (verb) a cup of tea

But

He may place an order (noun) for a cup of tea

Discuss: to talk in detail about something – the preposition is not required.

Grieve is always followed by over

Pay attention is followed by standard preposition to

### Usage

A native speaker of English may feel lost when he comes across an expression like

I cannot able to do the work

Please, on the Light, T.V., Fan

Please close the Light T.V., Fan

Current went, Current came, (instead of power)

In the above sentences the influence of mother tongue/regional language can clearly be seen. However, a direct translation or a one to one translation is not always possible and a language has to be learned as the native speaker uses it.

### **But and also have a different usage and placement in Indian English**

I was just joking but, instead of but I was joking

I did not go only – instead of “I did not go”

There is an overuse of words like actually, seriously, obviously, generally etc

**Eg:** seriously, she is a good person

Actually, I am not feeling well

### **Truncations: Certain words are abbreviated by truncating a part of the word**

Look at the following sentence

I am going native tomorrow

Instead of saying

I am going to my native place tomorrow

Jason Baldrige points out not only to the abbreviations but also to the extended meaning of particular expressions

He says, “Indians also shorten many words to create commonly used words. Enthusiasm is called enthu: as such it can be used in new ways. One can say “That guy has a lot of enthu”. While this is simply an abbreviation enthu can also be used as an adjective where enthusiasm cannot, as in, “He is a real enthu guy”. Same applies for fundamentals, which is shortend as fundas, ‘she knows her fundas’. What is interesting about fundas is that when the ‘as’ ending is dropped and ‘U’ is added it takes on a new meaning and can be used in a new way. Fundu basically means, wonderful or brilliant. One can say, “he is a fundu person” or even “he is fundu”

### **Compound words**

Indian innovation is clearly seen in coining compound words, where the native English speaker uses only one word.

Some of the compound words created are

Cousin Brother	}	in place of cousin
Cousin Sister		

Key bunch, age barred, pin drop silence, time pass etc.

### **Quirky but Quite India**

In south India one comes across expressions like that and all, this and all, to convey the meaning all of that or regarding that

Q. Can I return your book tomorrow? I am going out now

A. That and all I do not know. I need it urgently now

just & simply are expressions used in a typically Indian Way



- a. why did you do it?
- b. Simply

or

- A. Just I was telling him

**Tautology:** effective or emphatic usage of English for many Indians means using two similar words to convey the same meaning. Standard English requires only one word.

**Eg:** the true facts are

A fact cannot be false

The following expressions are typically Indian

**Eg:** He committed a blunder mistake

- a. blunder is a grave mistake; either it has to be a blunder or a mistake

I repeat my question once again

What does repeat mean?

He returned back my money

Return itself is sufficient

If suppose, a widow woman, reverted back are sometimes used.

However, tautology is not uncommon to the native English speakers/writers

HW and F G Fowler in "The king's English' points out such errors.

- Lord Rosebury has not budged from his position, splendid, no doubt – of (lonely) isolation (Times)
- If any real remedy is to be found, we must first diagnose the true nature of disease, (see Appendix) however, is not hard.

### **Repeat, Repeat!**

To stress the general idea and express its intensity the same word is repeated

Q: Did you finish reading the book?

A: Yes, yes! (accompanied by an emphatic shake of the head)

A hearty welcome

Come, come! sit, sit!

Following expressions appear quite normal to the Indian.

- He worries about small, small things
- He visited different, different places last month
- She has curly, curly hair.

### **Ambiguity**

Wrong word order, contraction of a sentence or clause, malapropism, confused thinking all these may result in ambiguous expression.

### **Word order**

Wrong word order can send wrong connotations. The following examples from Wren and Martins High School Grammar and composition illustrate this

In thirty-seven wrecks only five lives were **Fortunately lost:**  
(keep fortunately at the beginning of the sentence)

For, sale of piano, the property of a musician with carved legs  
(carved legs belong to the piano)

A nurse maid is wanted for a baby about twenty years old (who is twenty years old?)

“The Right word at the Right Time” Readers Digest Publication, gives beautiful examples of the importance of word order and the ambiguity created by not following it. (*See the appendix*)

Right word at the Right time page 42. – gives

The machinery only seems to go wrong when Jessie is operating it.

Does the machinery go wrong when Jessie is operating or does it only seem to go wrong? Where should the *only* be put?

Visiting aunts can be a bore

What is boring? Is it going and visiting or the aunts who are visiting you.

Removers of distinction (a display outside a transportation place)

Are they reputed people of distinction to transport the furniture

or

Do they remove distinction?

If the baby does not thrive on fresh milk, boil it (grammatically “it” refers to the baby)

Icelandic fish talks

Talks on Icelandic fish is probably a better title

Even the phrases have to follow certain order

We may refer to M.S. Subbalakshmi “as a famous carnatic singer”, not “a carnatic famous singer”

A black, leather bag, not a leather black bag

Paying more attention to reordering and restructuring the words makes the sentence more meaningful and leads to better understanding of your speech or writing.

## IDIOMATIC DISTORTIONS

The word idiom comes from the Greek ‘idioma’ private property, Every language pulsates with a life and individuality of its own because of the idiomatic expression that comes naturally to the native speaker of that language.

An idiom can be defined as a sequence of words whose combined meaning does not follow regularly from the meaning of individual words.

It is raining cats and dogs (heavy rain)

I always looked up to him (respected)

Not only the idiomatic expressions are distorted expressions, but some of the words and phrases have acquired a meaning of their own in Indian English.

Mrs/Mr. indicate the marital status of a woman or a man. But in Indian English it is quite common to say – My Mrs. Went out. Her Mr comes home very late – instead of saying my wife / her husband, etc.

Mrs. is also added to proper names. Mrs. Geeta instead of Mrs. Geeta Iyer or Mrs. Iyer.

The word funny originally means odd, amusing but in the modern parlance it has become an equivalent of rude, aggressive. That man was acting very funny after returning from states. (showing off)

She started acting funny after getting the lottery (Proud / aggressive)

High tech relates to technology but acquired the additional meaning – incredible.

He is wearing a high tech outfit.

### **Freak,**

Dictionary gives the meaning – a person, animal or plant which is abnormal or deformed.

But the modern Indian may mean by this expression ‘having a good time’.

Eve teasing is another word coined to indicate ‘sexual harassment’.

‘I got a firing’ – may not mean you are thrown out of job but you are scolded, you got an oral dressing down.

Thumbs up: an illiterate person may be called a thumbs up because he puts his thumb impression instead of signature.

On the anvil: The Indian press uses this to say that something is about to appear or happen.

A mountain resort is referred to as a hill station

Hotel, A restaurant or a specially big hotel

Lodge, A small hotel

Sometimes, lodge is where you stay and hotel is where you eat.

He is having blood pressure normally means he is having high blood pressure

A diabetic is said to have sugar complaint.

## Boss

Not necessarily one's senior official, the word can be used for a friend, a porter, a waiter or for just anyone.

**Eg:** glad to see you boss!

Look at the following

In the face of it, the rule appears a most advisable one.  
Correction. On the face of it, the rule appears a most advisable one.

On the face of it, is *prima facie*; the other means in spite of it.

She retained her calm in the face of many difficulties

The following expression is an idiomatic exp with something omitted.

If you repeat your teacher, you can learn the tables faster.

Repeat after: means say what she says and is the correct usage.

'I pay my pocket, sir', an irate subordinate tells his boss; he means-

I will pay from my pocket

Many a questions are raised regarding the honesty of the minister

It is either many a question is raised or many questions are raised.

He waited behind the wings and allowed things to go wrong.

In the wings is the correct usage

It was a fatal day when I met her!

Does he want to say fateful? Or his marriage proved fatal to his happiness?

I tried to personally persuade him to pursue higher studies. But my words proved to be water on duck's back.

Water off a duck's back is the correct idiom which means have no effect.

The high incidents of dowry deaths;

Incidence is frequency; incident an event

Here the writer wants to say incidence.

**Some more examples:**

I want two Xeroxes of this card.

Xerox is the name of a company that supplies photocopies. The correct usage is 'I want two photocopies of this card.'

Maximum, worst are used differently in Indian English; the former for most; the latter for something very bad. In the same way slow and soft are swapped.

"I shall speak slower for you" meaning I will speak softly.  
"Make the fan softer means, make the fan go slow"

Using "as" where it is not required Mahatma Gandhi is regarded as the father of nation.

A warehouse is called a godown

Ten millions is referred to as a crore

Hundred thousand is a lakh

Himalayan blunder, nose screw (a woman's nose ornament) are some of the Indian expressions.

**Rhyming words:** Indians, especially the Hindi-speaking belt use rhyming words. The second word does not have any meaning.

chai, vai, mall shall

Ice cream vice cream

**Prefixes / suffixes**

Adding English prefixes and suffixes to regional words is a common practice in India

Maskafy: maska is buttering in Hindi; flattering some one.

Dom and-ism are generously added to Indian words

Cooliedom

Goondatism

Use of bazi / baji or – giri

Business bazi, dadagiri, cheating giri

Wallah

Taxiwallah, cooliwallah, music wallah

Use of ji or saheb to name (sometimes both)

Welcome to India Smith saheb!

Call Guptaji immediately

Sabji or sirji is also heard in many places;

what's your good name? a direct translation from Hindi is slowly becoming a relic of the past. Still people introduce themselves in the following way

My good self so and so

My self so and so

### **MATRIMONIAL ENGLISH**

English used in matrimonial columns of India.

The matrimonial columns of a newspaper are abuzz with expressions which may not be understood by the native speaker of English

An unmarried person of any age is a boy or girl; B.A. pass / B.A. fail; wheatish complexion etc. or some examples of Indian English

### **All is not lost**

The flexibility and adaptability of the English language allows the inflow of words and expressions from all the other languages enriching itself with subtle nuances and imperceptible shades of meaning and usage. But equal credit must be given to the ever increasing socio - cultural impact of India on the west, and in the process on the English language. The adherents of standard / British English may look down upon Indian English, but many words of Indian origin have found their way into English and have been accepted.

According to Chillibreze writer, Mahalakshmi Radhakrishnan ([http://www.chillibreze.com/articles/Indian contributions to the oxford dictionary.asp](http://www.chillibreze.com/articles/Indian%20contributions%20to%20the%20oxford%20dictionary.asp)) many words associated with spirituality, have made their way into English languages.

**Eg:** Yoga, Mantra, Guru, Pundit, Karma, Dharma, Nirvana etc.

Among the 80 new words in the lexicon, are words as varied as – badmash, bandh, dhaba, bhelpuri and chamcha

She says, “Even some other trendy Indo English words like eveninger, bifurcate, prepone, Gymkhana, buck, corporator,

tank, bogie and day wise have been incorporated in the new edition (11<sup>th</sup> edition of concise dictionary oxford) catamaran and curry have their origin in Tamil"

words related to Indian cuisine are chutney, tandoor, etc.

Richard Garner, Education editor points out the contribution of sports world to create new words

(<http://w.w.w.independent.co.uk/news/uk/this-britian/hinglish-makes-its-debut-in-English-dict>).

The sporting world also brought new entries to the dictionary. The crystal palace manager Iain Dowie is credited with bouncebackability 'the ability to recover after a set back, especially in sport'. Tapping up makes its debut – after the illegal approach by Chelsea to Arsenal's Ashley Cole it is defined as "the illicit practice of attempting to recruit a player while he is still bound by contract to another team"

"Chin music – "bowling or pitching aimed at the batsman or batter's head" is a contribution of cricket. Certain on the street words make interesting reading-cyberathlete = a professional player of computer games.

Mother-out-law – the mother of one's ex-husband or ex-wife

asymmetrical warfare – warfare between a powerful military force and a weak guerilla force.

Not only do Indian words make their debut in the English Dictionary, but the Indian writers also have been winning accolades in the literary world. Indians have been recipients of the coveted, prestigious, Booker, Man Booker and Best of Booker prizes, the Pulitzer etc. Old literary giants like Radhakrishnam, Jawaharlal Nehru, Ravindranath Tagore, Vivekananda – to name just a few-are acknowledged best writers in English and have been acclaimed for their linguistic proficiency and literary fervour. Yes. All is not lost! But in spite of the bright spots, the basic structure of a language cannot be twisted and turned out of shape so that it becomes unrecognisable. A global language is preferable to a local / national language, for global dealings.



## **FROM LOCAL TO GLOBAL**

### **The Need for Global English**

As the individual nations merge into a global village and become interdependent for trade and commerce, for information transfer in science and technology, for their very survival – a common, standardized language, which can be understood and used by every one, a global language is required. English has the flexibility and potential to be understood by the majority of the world. In the words of Vimala S, Chillibreeze writer – “The British Council reports that nearly 375 million people speak English as a second language and 750 million speak it as a foreign language.....Statistics show that three quarters of the world’s mail is in English, four fifth of electronic information is stored in English”. Global English is inevitable because information transfer across the world is continuous. Translation of the entire information into English is very cumbersome and economically not viable.

### **What is Global English?**

Global English is a denationalized and simplified variety of English, not different from basic English language. It is different from “Englishes<sup>1</sup>” and transcends the local, regional and national boundaries.

It is standardized English which can be understood by all the countries.

### **Mechanics of Global English**

Global English has to keep the target readership in mind. Clear, simple and terse expressions which can be understood by the target group are to be used. Too formal or overtly stiff, stilted expressions are to be avoided as also jargon and slang. Following tips can be helpful.

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<sup>1</sup> The word Englishes is used by David Crystal. (English as a Global language. Cambridge U.P. 1997) Vimala. S. Says Global English is a short hand for English in and around the world in the latter half of the 20<sup>th</sup> C. (He does write about the new technology, with a particular acknowledgement of local dialects (Englishes))

**General Sentence Structure**

Short, simple sentences are preferable to long complex sentences. If a complex sentence is used, the subordinate clauses should be used. The sentence must be well sequenced and logical so that it can be read, understood and translated properly into the required language “The King’s English” gives the following examples of unnecessarily complex sentences which are verbose.

An elementary condition of a sound discussion is a frank recognition of the gulf severing two sets of facts. (Times)

**A simpler expression is**

There can be no sound discussion where the gulf severing two sets of facts is not frankly recognized.

- The sign of the times point to the necessity of the modification of the system of administration. (Times)  
A simpler expression.

It is becoming clear that the administrative system must be modified.

**Words:** familiar, short words are preferable to long unfamiliar words.

Will you permit me to homologate all you say today regarding the selfish minority of motorists who ...(Times) homologate means agree with;

envisage, visualize terminate, utilize, emblemed can easily be replaced by faced, see, end, and use. A person who has a limited vocabulary and uses this language for trade will be less perplexed.

**Long Phrases:** can be replaced by one word. Or verbs can be used in place of nouns

At a later date: later

To the fullest of my knowledge

According to my understanding

} As I understand.

The purpose of this report, memo, letter	- for, I write this to
use of verb in place of noun is preferable.	
In anticipation of	- I anticipate
In expectation of	- I expect
Make a decision	- decide
Submit a proposal	- propose
Extend a hearty welcome	- welcome

**Punctuation:** “The work of punctuation is mainly to show or hint at, the grammatical relation between words, phrases, clauses and sentences”. Punctuation marks, properly and accurately used give a significance, stress and decide the tone of the writer. However, punctuation has become the biggest casualty in modern times. Wrong punctuation marks, omission or use of too many punctuation marks send wrong signals to the target reader group and the very purpose of the communication is lost. Instead of establishing understanding, it may offend the reader.

Dealing with each punctuation mark is not possible. The function of a.,? and! are self – explanatory. Let’s take a look at apostrophe, comma and semicolon.

The comma, (,) if placed wrongly may completely alter the meaning of what is written.

Lynne stress, in her book “eats, shoots and leaves” gives beautiful illustrations of this;

Leonara walked on her head, a little higher than usual.

The comma is misplaced.

Read the sentence as-Leonara walked on, her head a little higher than usual.

The convict said, the judge is mad -

The convict, said the judge, is mad.

The comma does the magic and makes the sense clear.

Commas are used to fill gaps

Annie had dark hair; sally, white.

The expression sally had white hair or but sally had white hair – is included in the comma.

But using a comma where it is not required also leads to problem.

Don’t guess, use a timer or watch

The sentence implies, don't guess or use a timer or watch.

A semicolon or full stop is required after guess and gives the meaning "better use...."

Like comma, the 'S creates chaos and confusion in most cases of wrong usage.

Possessive pronouns and possessive determiners do not require an apostrophe.

Your's faithfully or your's sincerely is not grammatically acceptable however popular it may be

An apostrophe indicates omission of figures or letters;

'09 - for 2009

He hasn't done it - for has not

I'am - for - I am

I'll - for - I will and so on

'It is' can be written as it's; but the possessive pronoun its does not require an apostrophe.

A contraction of 'it is' requires an apostrophe 'S

It's your turn means - it is your turn.

The organization at its best - however does not require an apostrophe since its refers to the organization and is not a contraction of it is.

The apostrophe also indicates plurals of words-what are the do's and don't's?

Current guides to punctuation, including FOWLER'S Modern English Usage state that with modern names ending in "s" and any foreign names with an unpronounced final s, the apostrophe 'S is required.

Keats's poems not Keats' poems.

Alexander Dumas's The Testament

However,

Jesus' disciples

Conscience' sake do not require's but only the sign of - apostrophe

One may talk about a bird's nest or birds' nests as the case may be.

However Teacher's Day

Or

Boy's Hostel

Indicate one teacher and one boy. They have to be written as Teachers' Day; Boys' Hostel.

The semicolon is almost like a full stop but the pause is for a lesser duration

**Sentence linkers:** Linkers are cohesive devices and support the coherence of thought. But, however, yet, further, therefore – are some of the linkers.

Again, a wrong linker may send a wrong connotation.

My uncle had been sick for a long time; I served him day and night. Therefore he died.

The linker implies the service is responsible for the death of his / her uncle.

A Linker gives a clue to what is going to come in the next sent, paragraph etc.,

**Stilted/formal tone:** very stilted formal language should give way to informal, natural language. Can the following sentence be altered for better understanding?

The DICHOTOMY between what you quoted and what you scripted in your bill has sent waves of shock across the company. We can visualize a contiguity of such event which may dissuade us to continue future dealings with you.

Don't send the READER RUNNING to a dictionary. Use simpler words. To quote Mathew Parris, "we, English have a habit of playing things by ear. We distrust the resort to a single, final, timeless arbitration"

**CONCLUSION**

The English Language is – in a flux and cannot be confined to rules of grammar, vocabulary, semantics etc. New words are accepted, existing words change their meaning and significance, innovations are allowed. However, for trade and commerce, for information transfer in science and technology – a standardized simplified, grammatically correct English called Global English is to be used.

**APPENDIX – 1****1. VERBS**

The following verbs cannot be used in Progressive Tense

Words of perception: See, hear, smell, notice, taste, recognize.

'I am seeing a beautiful picture,' is grammatically wrong. But when you say, 'I am seeing my friends in the evening', you mean to say, you are going to visit your friend. The second sentence is grammatically correct.

Words of perception, when used in a different sense, can take the progressive verbs.

**Verbs of emotions** Do not take the verb in the progressive tense.

Want, wish, desire, feel, like, love, hate, hope, refuse, prefer, etc.

I am hating her	}	are grammatically wrong
I am loving it		

**Verbs of thinking-(do not take the progressive tense.)**

Think, suppose, believe, understand, agree, consider, trust, remember, forget, know, imagine, etc.

**Verbs indicating possession (have = possess)**

Have, own, possess, contain, consist of etc.

I am having a house is grammatically wrong.

But

"I am having breakfast", is acceptable because he is having meals – taking

He is having a tough time – indicates he is going through a tough time – not that he is the owner of the tough time

**APPENDIX – 2****2. NOUNS**

Classified as countables and uncountable. Uncountables do not take plural number.

**Eg:** Water, Sand, Gold, Wood etc.,

Some words are always used in plural.

**Eg:** spectacles, tongs, pliers, socks, trousers, alms, obsequies etc, thanks (noun)

Some words are always used in singular and the verb that governs them is in singular

Aircraft, sheep

Names of subjects: Mathematics, Physics, Statistics etc



**APPENDIX – 3****3. ARTICLES**

An is used before a word that begins with a vowel or vowel sound

Vowels are – a, e, i, o, u

All the other letters are consonants

However, it is grammatically correct to say an honest man instead of a honest man – because ‘h’ is silent in this word

In the same way

European }  
Or            } begin with vowels but they are pronounced as Y'. Hence,  
University }

the correct usage is – a European. Not an European similarly in a University – not an University. In one-eyed man the word one begins with a V sound. Hence it is correct to say a one-eyed man not an one-eyed man.

## APPENDIX - 4

**4. PREPOSITIONS**

A preposition indicates place, time, or direction

Following words do not require a preposition

Despite means in spite of

Await means wait for

Discuss means talk at length about some thing

Describe – give a detailed description of

Fear	}	Verbs
Order		

Accompany

Flee

Some words require a preposition

What are you looking? Is a meaningless question. It should be what are you looking for? at?.

**Standard Preposition**

Some words take only one preposition congratulate on, famous for, conducive to etc.

Some words take different prepositions, but the meaning changes with each preposition

He is cut out to be an artist (exhibited traits of)

Cut down your expenditure (reduce)

She is cut up with grief (grief stricken)

Look: Look after, look into, look down upon,

look upto – all convey different meanings

when the part of speech changes, a different preposition is required

I order a cup of tea

I placed an order for a cup of tea

She is fond of children

She has a fondness for children

He is charged with murders.

He is arrested on charges of murder.

**APPENDIX – 5****5. BE A GOOD WRITER – (TAUTOLOGY)**

So you have always wanted to learn how to write something with a bit more zip than a grocery list. Look no further; here are some valuable tips, courtesy of plain language, gov.

- Avoid clichés like plague : they're old hat.
- Parenthetical remarks (however relevant) are unnecessary
- Do not use a foreign word when there is an adequate English equivalent quid pro quo
- Exaggeration is a billion times worse than understatement
- Don't repeat yourself, or say again what you have already said.
- Be more or less specific
- Proof read carefully to see if you left any words out

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**APPENDIX – 6****6. INTERNET**

- REAL BUT IMPERFECT ENGLISH FOUND AROUND THE WORLD SOURCE – <http://www.world-english.org/globalenglish.htm>
- Doctor's surgery, India: SPECIALIST IN WOMEN AND OTHER DISEASES
- Zoo, India, PLEASE DO NOT FEED THE ANIMALS, IF YOU HAVE ANY SUITABLE FOOD, GIVE IT TO THE GUARD ON DUTY
- Restaurant, India, OPEN SEVEN DAYS AND WEEKENDS TOO
- CEMETERY, India: PERSONS ARE PROHIBITED FROM PICKING FLOWERS FROM ANY BUT THEIR OWN GRAVES
- TEMPLE, India, IT IS FORBIDDEN TO ENTER A WOMAN EVEN A FOREIGNER IF DRESSED AS A MAN
- Hotel broucher, India: THIS HOTEL IS RENOWNED FOR ITS PEACE AND SOLITUDE IN FACT, LARGE CROWDS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD FLOCK HERETO ENJOY IT.

**APPENDIX – 7****7. INTERNET**

Here is a list of some common English language sentence errors that we, in our daily lives, make

- Incorrect: it was so late there was no taxi  
Correct: it was so late that there was no taxi available
- Incorrect: It's seven twenty o'clock  
Correct: It's seven twenty
- Incorrect: Your coat is broken  
Correct: Your coat is torn.
- Incorrect: let me help you todo your work  
Correct: Let me help you with your work
- Incorrect: Susan didn't make a fault anyway  
Correct: Susan didn't make a mistake anyway
- Incorrect: may I borrow your phone  
Correct: May I use your phone
- Incorrect: Would you mind posting this letter for me? Yes, certainly  
Correct: would you mind posting this letter for me?Of course not.
- Incorrect: He becomes better  
Correct: He got better
- Incorrect: We'll have a hearing test tomorrow  
Correct: We'll have a listening test tommorrow
- Incorrect: I recommend you to take a long vacation  
Correct: I recommend that you take a long vacation
- Incorrect: The last bus leaves at eleven o'clock. It's about eleven now, Hurry up!  
Correct: The last bus leaves at eleven o'clock. it's nearly eleven now, Hurry up!

Incorrect: It was still bright outside

Correct: it was still light outside

Incorrect: The hall can seat two hundred people

Correct: The hall seats two hundred people

Incorrect: anywhere will do

Correct: Any place will do

Incorrect: He is much interested in things Chinese

Correct: he is very interested in Chinese things

Incorrect: Wait here please, I'll come back in a minute

Correct: Wait here please, I'll be back in a minute

Incorrect: I am uncomfortable

Correct: I don't feel well

Incorrect: Come to here

Correct: Come here

Incorrect: Common students in US don't wear a uniform

Correct: The average students in US don't wear a uniform

Incorrect: who cooked this salad?

Correct: who made this salad?

Incorrect: His restaurant attracts lots of customers

Correct: his restaurant attracts lots of guests

Incorrect: My friend Tony died in a traffic accident

Correct: My friend Tony was killed in a traffic accident

Incorrect: Different from me, she is proficient in English

Correct: Unlike me, she is proficient in English

Incorrect: Little children are difficult to understand that

Correct: It is difficult for children to understand that

SOURCE: common mistakes in English vocabulary:  
<http://w.w.w India study channel.com /resource /9610>

## 6. Source

1. The King's English. H.W. And F.G Fowler (O.U.P.)
2. Eats, shoots and leaves. Lynne Truss
3. High School English Grammar & Composition by wren & Martin – revised by N.D.V. Prasada Rao (S.Chand & Co)
4. Words often confused – by Dr. B R Kishore (New light Publisher New Delhi)
5. Linguistic and Social Characteristic of Indian English (Jason Baldrige)
6. Hobson Jobson: by Col.Henry Yule.R.E.C.B. and A.C.Burnell; Ph.D.C.I.E. EDITED BY WILLIAM Crooke B.A. Rupa & Co. Internet.
7. The right word at the right TIME (Reader's Digest Publication)
8. The Internet.