



THE TIMES OF INDIA

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TODAY'S EDITION

Experts tell us why it is important to be a good listener to become a good speaker in 'Language Lab'

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From igniting emotions to improving your language skills, poetry has it all, says an educator, charting out the benefits of reading and writing poems

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Real Madrid seal 35th La Liga title with a win over Espanyol

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STUDENT EDITION

MONDAY, MAY 2, 2022



High-elevation areas in Africa and Asia are at risk, although a lack of monitoring will make it difficult to track the progress of certain viruses

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Can CLIMATE CHANGE spark the next pandemic?

As the world struggles to get out of the 'pandemic phase' for Covid-19, scientists are already looking ahead at the next global health crisis – a pandemic, which could be the result of global warming. Researchers from the Georgetown University claim that rising temperatures are forcing animals to relocate to more populated areas of the globe, increasing the risk of a viral jump to humans. The shuffling of viruses among animals may increase the risk that one will jump into humans and cause a new pandemic, the researchers said.

Scientists have long warned that a warming planet may increase the burden of diseases. Malaria, for example, is expected to spread as the mosquitoes, which carry the protozoa, expand their range into warming regions. But climate change might also usher in entirely new diseases, by allowing pathogens to move into new host species

HOW CLIMATE CHANGE WILL ACCELERATE VIRAL SPILLOVERS

1 As temperatures increase, many species are expected to spread away from the blazing equator to find more comfortable habitats. Others may move up the sides of hills and mountains to find cooler altitudes. When different species come into contact for the first time, the viruses may be able to infect new hosts



now, many bat species in southeast Asian region are limited to small ranges and don't come into contact with one another much. But as the planet warms, these bats will fly quickly to suitable climates and encounter new species

2 In particular, researchers warn of the impacts that rising temperatures will have on bats. Bats play a central role in the spread of new viruses, with the greatest impacts projected in southeast Asia, which is a hotspot for bat diversity. As of

3 Similarly, a rare rodent that has little contact with humans today might pass a virus on to raccoons, which live comfortably in urban areas

Ominous signs for human beings

The findings may be particularly ominous for humans. As viruses move to new host species, they evolve – and can potentially evolve in ways that make them more likely to infect people. The coronavirus that caused severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS, in 2002 originated in Chinese horseshoe bats and jumped to another species – possibly raccoon dogs sold in Chinese animal markets – before infecting people



Climate-driven spillovers may start long before 2070. After all, the planet is already 1.1 degrees Celsius warmer than it was in the 19th century. In their computer model, the researchers found that there has already been sufficient climate change to start mixing viruses up, although their model doesn't let them point to particular viruses that have made a jump



LESSON TIME

WHAT ARE ZOOONOTIC DISEASES

A zoonosis or zoonotic disease is an infectious disease caused by a pathogen (an infectious agent, such as a bacterium, virus, protozoan parasite) that has jumped from an animal (usually a vertebrate) to a human

How do they spread: They range in potency, and are often less dangerous in one species than they are in another. In order to be successful they rely on long and direct contact



with different animals

There are over 200 known types of zoonoses. Some diseases, such as HIV, begin as a zoonosis but later mutate into human-only strains. Other zoonoses can cause recurring disease outbreaks, such as Ebola virus disease and salmonellosis

Zoonotic pathogens can spread to humans through any contact point with domestic, agricultural or wild animals

Urbanisation and the destruction of natural habitats increase the risk of zoonotic diseases by increasing contact between humans and wild animals

ARE THEY RESPONSIBLE FOR A PANDEMIC?

A 2009 outbreak of swine flu - H1N1 - was considered a pandemic and governments spent millions developing 'tamiflu' to stop the spread of the disease

The novel coronavirus that causes Covid-19, is responsible for a global pandemic

WhatsApp may soon allow you to use same chat account on multiple devices

Tech giant WhatsApp will soon let users operate the same account on different devices including a mobile phone or a tablet. So far, the Meta-owned instant messaging platform does not allow users to chat from the same account on multiple phones. But according to WA-BetaInfo, that's about to change. As per the report, WhatsApp will let users manage their account on a different device as a "companion" by scanning a code, which appears on your main device with the official account.

TECHAWAY

The new update, which is currently being tested, will also automatically sync recent messages on the companion device and will be end-to-end encrypted. According to reports, WhatsApp uses the same splash screen displayed in the web and desktop apps to download your messages

Users will also not require their primary phone connected to the Internet in order to access the chat on companion device as WhatsApp will download everything for you directly from its server



Education ministry seeks input for National Curriculum Framework from ministries

The ministry of education has asked other Union ministries to send in their inputs and suggestions for the National Curriculum Framework (NCF). With NCF, the ministry will lay down the broad guidelines for school curriculum and its revision. A few of the Union ministries have already sent in their suggestions for the framework



The process of developing a National Curriculum Framework was initiated by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) as per the National Education Policy 2020

The ministry of science and technology has suggested the inclusion of topics, such as traditional knowledge, Vedic mathematics, coding, patents, Intellectual Property Rights, IPR in the curriculum framework

The ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEFCC), has suggested the addition of topics, such as urban biodiversity and protection, climate change and role of forests, circular economy, ecotourism, zoonotic diseases, biodiversity heritage sites, and more

'Shabaash Mithu', a biopic on cricketer Mithali Raj starring Taapsee Pannu, to release on July 15

Actress Taapsee Pannu on Friday announced that her upcoming film 'Shabaash Mithu', a biopic on Indian cricketer Mithali Raj, will make its debut in theatres on July 15. Directed by filmmaker Srijit Mukherji and written by Priya Aven, the film is a coming-of-age story of women's cricket in India as witnessed by the most successful woman cricketer. It will chronicle the highs and lows, setbacks and moments of euphoria of Raj's life.

Mithali has a career spanning 23 years, during which she smashed seven consecutive 50s in one-day international matches and led India in four World Cups

'Shabaash Mithu' marks the first theatrical release of Pannu post her 2020 movie 'Thappad'



Entertainment

WHICH IS THE WORLD'S SECOND HAPPIEST COUNTRY?

- Clue 1: It has a south border with Germany.
- Clue 2: The game of handball was invented in this country.
- Clue 3: It has the world's oldest national flag.

Answer: DENMARK. The country has become the world's first to halt its Covid-19 vaccination programme due to high vaccination coverage, according to the Danish Health Authority. While 4.8 million of its 5.87 million population is fully-vaccinated, 3.6 million have also received booster shots. The World Happiness Report ranks Denmark as the second happiest country, after Finland. Handball was invented in Denmark in 1897, and its national flag – known as Dannebrog – dates back to 1219.

INDIA AGAIN LEADS THE WORLD IN INTERNET SHUTDOWNS

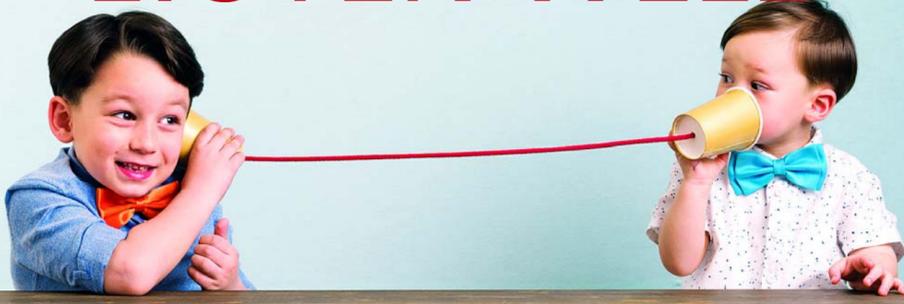
For the fourth year in a row, India again earned notoriety for imposing the most internet shutdowns, with 106 such instances in 2021. It was just a marginally better 'performance' than 2020, when 109 incidents of internet shutdown were observed. In the previous two years, in 2018 and 2019, there were 134 and 121 incidents of internet shutdown in the country respectively, according to Access Now's annual report, Keep It On.

Not surprisingly, Jammu and Kashmir bore the brunt of India's internet shutdowns, with 85 incidents of internet disruptions taking place in the Union Territory. In fact, among the four longest tenures of internet shutdowns in the world, J&K has suffered it for the third-longest period of 551 days, from August 5, 2019 till February 5, 2021, in the wake of abrogation of Article 370

PUBLIC SPEAKING

TRENDING NOW

To speak well, FIRST YOU MUST LISTEN WELL



What do you think is the most common form of communication - speaking, listening, reading or writing? You might think it is speaking, but it isn't - it's listening. Studies have shown that listening makes up about 45% of the time people spend communicating, followed by speaking (about 30 per cent), reading (about 15 per cent) and writing (about 10 per cent). That's right: listening is the skill you will use the most in English, or any other language you learn.

Language learners generally learn four skills in the following order: 1. **Listening:** When people are learning a new language they first hear it spoken. 2. **Speaking:** Eventually, they try to repeat what they hear. 3. **Reading:** Later, they see the spoken language depicted symbolically in print. 4. **Writing:** Finally, they reproduce these symbols on paper.

THE VERY BEGINNING

The first language skill that humans develop is listening. Scientists and doctors now can prove that babies inside their mothers' wombs respond to sounds such as soothing classical music, singing or humming by the mother, or loud noises. As a biological reality, listening occurs naturally by the baby even before birth. Once born, the baby responds to all kinds of sounds, and can sense the tone of voice by adults around him/her, such as calming, loud, or angry voices.

Listening is key to all effective communication. Without the ability to listen effectively, messages are easily misunderstood. As a result, communication

TYPES OF LISTENING

■ **Active Listening** - It is a type of listening wherein the listener is attentive towards what the speaker is saying. It helps in understanding the emotions, which the words are expressing. This helps in communicating your thoughts towards that person in a better way.

■ **Appreciative Listening** - It is a type of listening where one accepts and appreciates the other person through what they say. It seeks to praise. Alternatively, listening to something for pleasure, such as music is also a type of Appreciative Listening.

■ **Critical Listening** - Critical listening is listening performed to evaluate, judge, form opinion about what is being said. The judgment includes assessing

strengths and weaknesses, agreement and approval.

■ **Discriminative Listening** - It is a type of listening where the listener discriminates between different sound and sights. Here the listener is trying to hear something specific.

■ **Deep Listening** - Deep listening occurs when you're committed to understanding the speaker's perspective. It involves paying attention to both verbal and nonverbal cues, such as the words being used, the speaker's body language, and their tone.

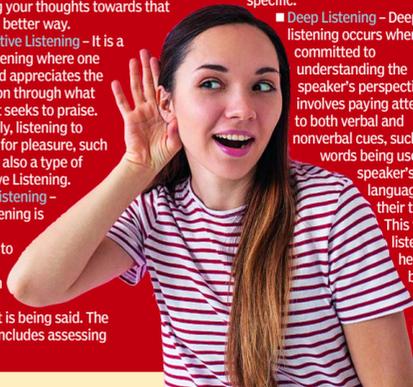
This type of listening helps build trust and rapport.

breaks down and the sender of the message can easily become frustrated or irritated. Many successful leaders and entrepreneurs credit their success to effective listening skills. If you develop good listening comprehension, the other skills will come, the speaking will come, even your grammar, your accuracy. All of these things will come if you have had so much exposure to the language that you understand it when it is spoken by a native speaker.

NOT THE SAME AS HEARING

Hearing refers to the sounds that enter your ears. It is a physical process that, provided you do not have any hearing problems, happens automatically. Listening, however, requires more than that: it requires focus and concentrated effort, both mental and sometimes physical as well.

Listening is not a passive process. In fact, the listener can, and should, be at least as engaged in the process as the speaker. The phrase 'active listening' is used to describe this process of being fully involved.



SOME COOL NEW IDIOMS

New idioms come along all the time, says Arnold Zwicky, adjunct professor of linguistics at Stanford University. There are several sources for idioms, but the big contributor is figurative language, especially metaphors. Here are some hot new favourites:

"flexing on Insta" — or anywhere else online — you're showing off, and you're not being graceful about it.

SLIDE INTO DMS

If you're sliding into someone's DMs, you probably haven't talked to them before. More often than not, this phrase is used when someone's asking if they can talk to you privately, or when that person invites you to talk to them in DMs (direct messages).

THAT'S THE TEA

No, this doesn't refer to actual tea. The phrase originated in drag culture, and "tea" or "T" refers to the truth. The phrase has grown to refer to the intense gossip and drama that plagues the internet.

FLEXING ON INSTA

You might see plenty of folks flexing their muscles and posting their workout progress in Instagram photos, but that's not what we're talking about here. If you're

LEFT ON READ

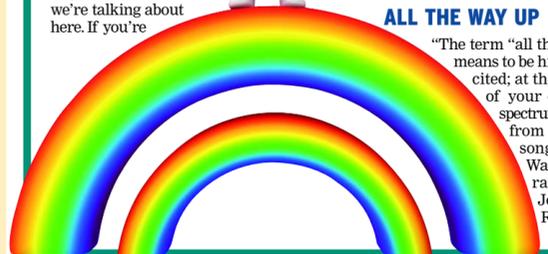
Admit it. You've done this. You've seen someone's text, but you didn't reply to it. Maybe you forgot, but more likely, you saw the message and didn't feel like answering.

LET'S HUG IT OUT

The phrase let's hug it out means "let's end our argument." It was popularised by Ari on HBO's series 'Entourage'.

ALL THE WAY UP

"The term 'all the way up' means to be high and excited; at the pinnacle of your emotional spectrum. It comes from the 2016 song 'All the Way Up' by rappers Fat Joe and Remy Ma.



DID YOU KNOW?

THE K RULE

Certain words have been suggested to be inherently funny. Words with the k sound (Cadillac, quintuplet) are perceived as the funniest, and words with a hard g (guacamole, gargantuan) create almost as many grins. This may be because much of what makes Americans laugh today has roots in Yiddish humour, the language of which includes many guttural sounds - and the k and hard g are as close as English comes. The K Rule is a good convention for naming things and making word choices that will subconsciously or subtly amuse readers. This tool is especially handy in crafting attention-grabbing titles or subheads.



Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills?

Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on toinie175@gmail.com



LANGUAGE CHECK

COMMON GRAMMAR MISTAKES WE MAKE

1. Overuse of adverbs

Adverbs - those words that often end in -ly - modify verbs. They're okay once in a while, but in excess they're an indicator of weak verb choices. Eg: **Incorrect:** The boy ran really fast to catch the runaway ball. **Correct:** The boy sprinted to catch the runaway ball.

2. Too many prepositional phrases

Prepositions are those words that often come before nouns and pronouns to show direction, location, or time. Excessive prepositional phrases render your writing wordy. Whenever possible, simplify. Eg: **Incorrect:** The caravan came over the top of the hill. **Correct:** The caravan crested the hill.

3. Misuse of lie/lay

If you plan to place or put an object somewhere, such as a plate on a table, you should use "lay." If you intend to

stretch out on a bed for a nap, you should use "lie." Eg: **Incorrect:** He was laying on the couch. **Correct:** He was lying on the couch.

4. Run-on sentences

Run-on sentences, also known as fused sentences, occur when two complete sentences are squashed together without using a coordinating conjunction or proper punctuation. Run-on sentences can be short or long. Eg: **Incorrect:** Lila enjoyed the bouquet of tulips John gave her on prom night however she prefers roses. **Correct:** Lila enjoyed the bouquet of tulips John gave her on prom night; however, she prefers roses.

5. Tautologies

Tautologies express the same thing twice with different words. In our example, the word "made" implies that Jack used his own two hands to create the pail. The prepositional phrase "with his own hands" creates a re-

dundancy. **Incorrect:** Jack made a water pail with his own hands for Jill. **Correct:** Jack made a water pail for Jill.

6. Comma splices

To splice means to connect or join. When a writer joins two independent sentences with a comma instead of separating them with a period or a coordinating conjunction, that's a comma splice. The comma has its own jobs to do, but connecting two independent sentences isn't one of those jobs. Besides, the period gets testy when his sister, the comma, steals his thunder. Periods have their jobs, and so do commas, but

never the twain shall meet - unless it's in the form of a semicolon. Semicolons can also take the place of a coordinating conjunction, such as "and," "but," or "so," among others. Eg: **Incorrect:** He was very hungry, he ate a whole pizza. **Correct:** He was very hungry. He ate a whole pizza.

7. Wordiness (inflated sentences)

If you have something to say to readers, spit it out (figuratively, not literally). Inflating sentences with unnecessary words or pointless filler only muddles what you mean to say. Wordy sentences also frustrate readers, so get to the point. Streamline your sentences by using strong verbs and nouns instead of trite adjectives and adverbs. William Shakespeare once wrote that brevity is the soul of wit. Follow the Bard's lead by never using ten sentences when two will suffice. Don't overuse words such as "that," "just," and "very." Proofread your work to keep your prose tight-ended and toned!

Incorrect: It has come to our attention that your tax returns are overdue and we urge you to file them at your earliest convenience. **Correct:** Your tax returns are overdue. Please file them now. — Grammarly.com



When in Rome, speak as the ROMANS SPEAK

While you'll find plenty of English speakers in any of Italy's major cities, most Italians will appreciate you trying their language; you may even be surprised how many new friends it makes you as you mingle at aperitivo or linger in a bustling piazza. When you talk to people in their language they appreciate it and experiences open up to you that would not have been possible if you had been speaking English. Here are few words and phrases you must know

before visiting Italy:

1. Hello: Ciao (informal); Salve (formal)
2. Goodbye: Ciao (informal); Arrivederci (formal)
3. Good morning: Buongiorno
4. Good evening: Buonasera
5. Please: Per favore
6. How much: Quanto?
7. How are you: Come sta?
8. How's it going: Come va?
9. Excuse me: Mi scusi
10. I'm sorry: Mi dispiace