

IIT Madras

ONLINE DEGREE

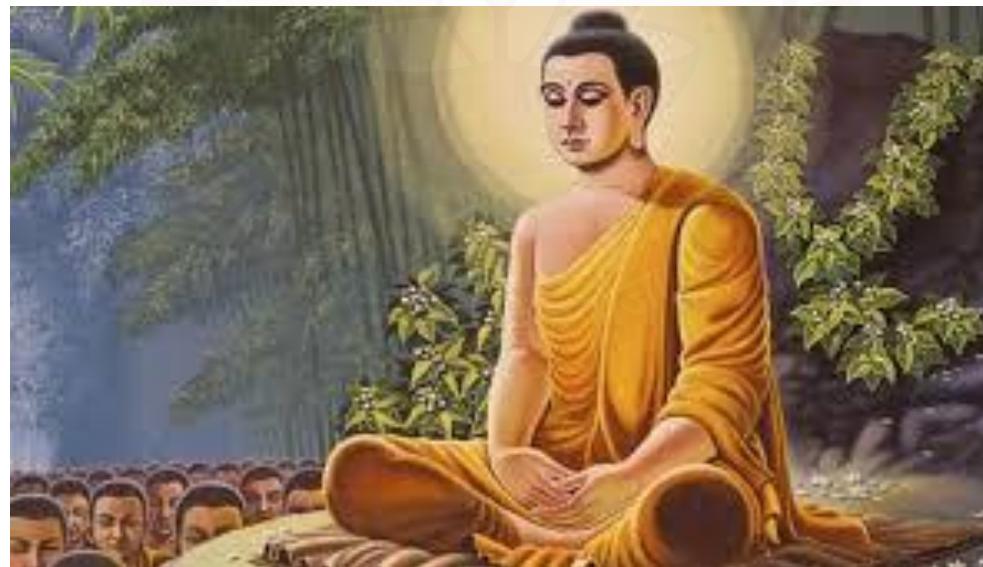
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POWER OF SIMPLICITY - WORDS & SENTENCES

- Simplicity works best everywhere.
- This is true also of languages.
- Best books and talks have happened in simple words & sentences.



See the following,

From *Macbeth* by William Shakespeare, Act 1, Scene I.
A desert place.

Thunder and lightning. Enter three Witches

First Witch

When shall we three meet again
In thunder, lightning, or in rain?

Second Witch

When the hurlyburly's done,
When the battle's lost and won.

Third Witch

That will be ere the set of sun.

First Witch

Where the place?

Second Witch

Upon the heath.

Third Witch

There to meet with Macbeth.

....

ALL

Fair is foul, and foul is fair:

Hover through the fog and filthy air.

- All are simple sentences, and nearly all words are of one syllable.
- Many other writers and speakers in all ages wrote in this manner.

Composed upon Westminster Bridge

by William Wordsworth

Earth has not anything to show more fair:
Dull would he be of soul who could pass by
A sight so touching in its majesty:
This City now doth, like a garment, wear
The beauty of the morning; silent, bare,
Ships, towers, domes, theatres, and temples lie
Open unto the fields, and to the sky;

All bright and glittering in the smokeless air.
Never did sun more beautifully steep
In his first splendour, valley, rock, or hill;
Ne'er saw I, never felt, a calm so deep!
The river glideth at his own sweet will:
Dear God! the very houses seem asleep;
`And all that mighty heart is lying still!

- Except perhaps for words like “splendour”, “glittering” and “glideth”, nearly all other words in this poem by a poet laureate of England are monosyllabic words of common use.

- So is the power of Charles Dickens. He wrote about the joys and sorrows of the poor, the weak and the meek, and made “Novel” a popular literary form.



See the following from his novel *Oliver Twist*.

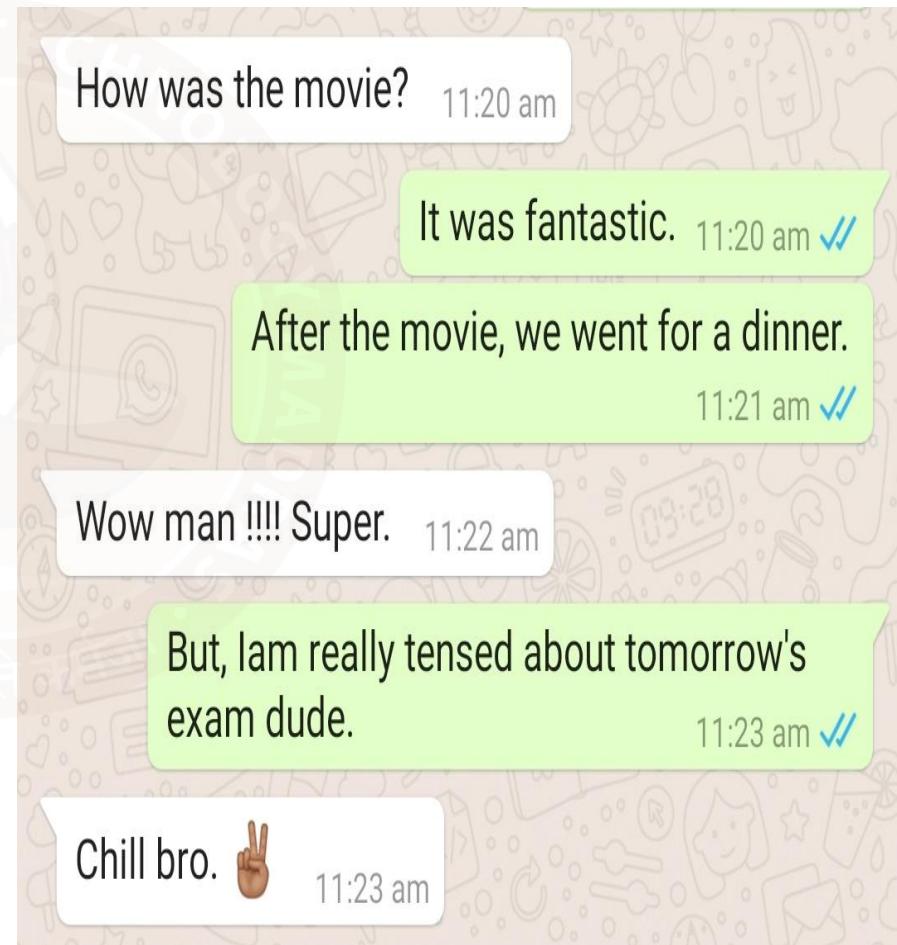
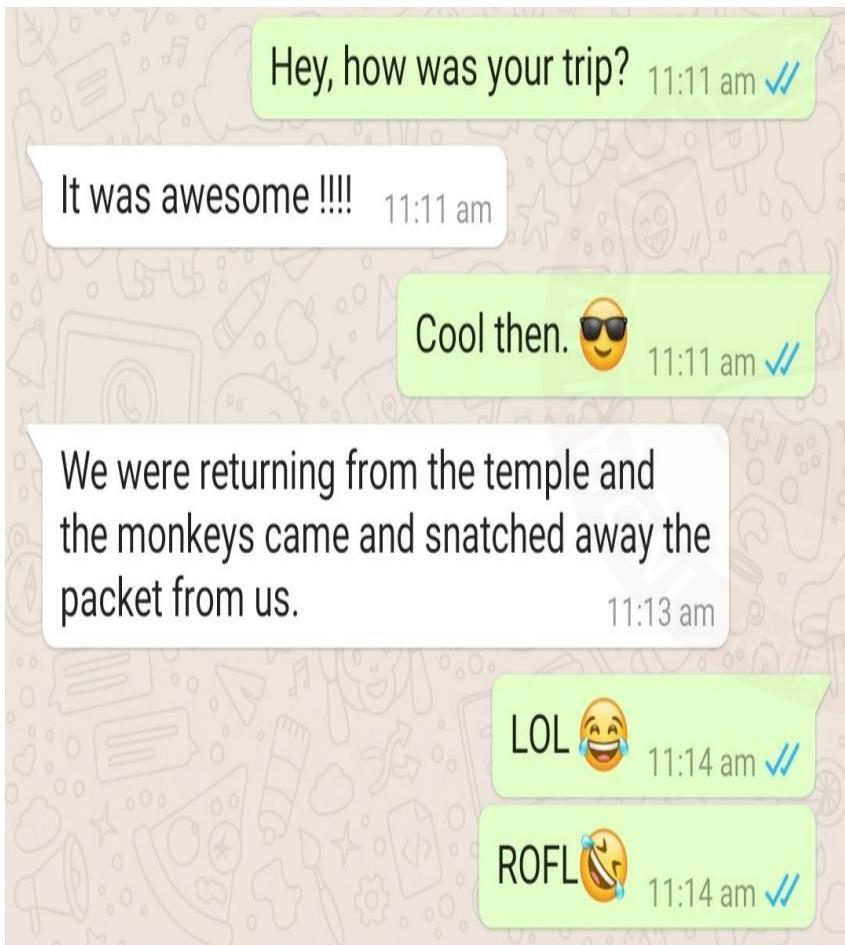
The surgeon had been sitting with his face turned towards the fire: giving the palms of his hands a warm and a rub alternately. As the young woman spoke, he rose, and advancing to the bed's head, said, with more kindness than might have been expected of him: “Oh, you must not talk about dying yet.”

“Lor bless her dear heart, no!” interposed the nurse, hastily depositing in her pocket a green glass bottle, the contents of which she had been tasting in a corner with evident satisfaction.

See the following from Stephen Hawking's *A Brief History of Time*: Chapter 2, P. 10

Our present ideas about the motion of bodies date back to Galileo and Newton. Before them people believed Aristotle, who said that the natural state of a body was to be at rest and that it moved only if driven by a force or impulse. It followed that a heavy body should fall faster than a light one, because it would have a greater pull toward the earth.

- Many people write messages through internet everyday.



ACTIVITY

1. Write a note inviting your friends to meet you for a party in the new semester, after the reopening of the college after complete lockdown for nearly a year.

2. For the photographs and/or situations given below, write a caption in simple words or sentences.

- Write a caption, in no more than 5 words



a)



b)

- c) Write a new and witty birthday greeting.
- d) Invite your college teachers to your wedding.
- e) Invite your friends to join you in a weekend walking excursion.
- f) Complete the following sentences.
 - 1. God created friends to make up...
 - 2. Home is ...
 - 3. More money ...
 - 4. Real power...
 - 5. Beauty lies...

3. Write a short paragraph of about 150 words on one or more of the following.
- a. Home cooked food vs Ready to eat door delivered food
 - b. A dream holiday
 - c. What I like about online classes
 - d. Social Media – good or bad

HOW TO WRITE SIMPLE SENTENCES

1. Do not write sentences with more than 10 words.
2. Write with only one verb.
3. Write only one or two syllable words, unless unavoidable.
4. Do write more than one draft.
5. Use a dictionary and thesaurus when in doubt.

ANSWERS

3.a. Home cooked food.

Draft 1

Home cooked food is the best. It suits your taste. It saves time and money. It is good for health. In a family, it creates bonding. We should share home work. The best conversation in a family mostly happens in the kitchen, sometimes arguments also happen there. But then you know and understand one another better. These days all members of most families are always busy. They hardly get to sit, work and be together. Such spots are occasions of great education for the young. They learn skills, they learn about family traditions.

More importantly this is the best place for value education. Not the best universities can compete even with an ordinary family in this aspect of education. There is however only one problem in cooking at home. We have to spend time buying and storing stuff. But then that is a managerial problem. With some effort, that can be managed. Besides, for such a gain that is such a small investment. (164 Words).

Draft 2

Home cooked food is the best. It suits your taste. It saves time and money. It is good for health. In a family, it helps bonding. All can share home work. The best conversation in a family mostly happens in the kitchen, sometimes arguments also happen there. But then you know and understand one another better. These days all members of most families are always busy. They are hardly ever together. But such spots can be education for the young. They can learn skills, they can also learn about family traditions. More importantly this is the best place for value education. There is however one problem. For cooking at home, we have to spend time buying and storing stuff. But then that is a managerial problem. With some effort, that can be managed. Besides, for such a gain that is such a small investment. (144 Words.)

Thank you!