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My friend  
expired last  
night!

INDIANISM  
AND WAYS  
TO AVOID  
IT



## COUSIN SISTER/BROTHER

- ▶ Cousin will just do fine. This term is a noun and not an adjective and thereby you cannot describe the gender of the cousin. No matter how adequate it is in Indian settings, where we have large families and Shashi could be our aunt or our uncle.

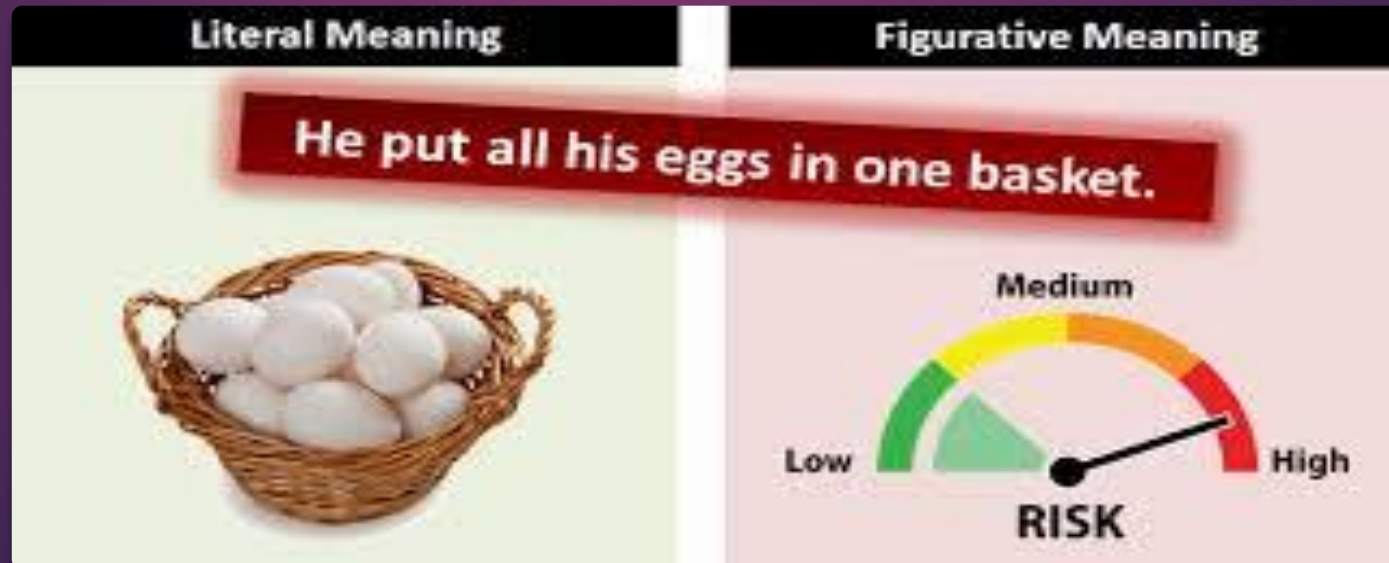
My  
**COUSIN**  
is a little more than  
what i call **AMAZING!** ♥

myhotcomments.com



# LITERALLY

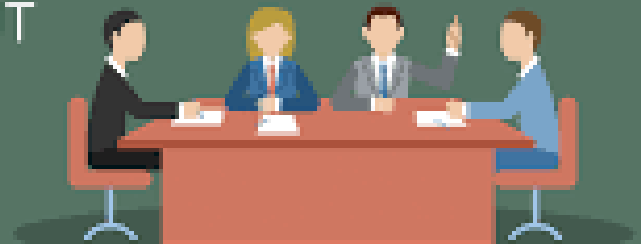
- ▶ It appears as if literally everyone is using this term nowadays. Please stop cause it is used to denote facts, and shouldn't be used figuratively or metaphorically. You can't just literally love a book, that might be a big problem.



## DISCUSS ABOUT

- We need to stop using this phrase and there is nothing to “discuss about” this. The word discuss itself means ‘to talk about’ and when we add another ‘about’ in it, it becomes ‘to talk about about’. And there is nothing to talk about ‘about’. Leave ‘about’ out of it.

LET'S DISCUSS ABOUT  
**'DISCUSS'**



## VEG AND NON-VEG



- Instead of using veg and non-veg, try using vegetarian and non-vegetarian. The food could be veg and non-veg, but people cannot. Unless you are man-eating lions.



## MARRIAGE VS WEDDING

- ▶ Many of us tend to use the words wedding and marriage interchangeably, but there is a difference between the two. The wedding is the act of getting married, the actual ceremony, whereas marriage is the state of being married.



### Wedding

- A wedding is a ceremony that declares a couple married.



### Marriage

- A marriage is a kind of bondage.





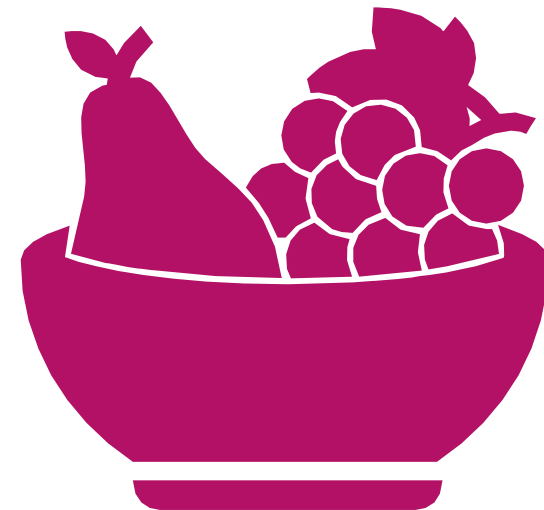
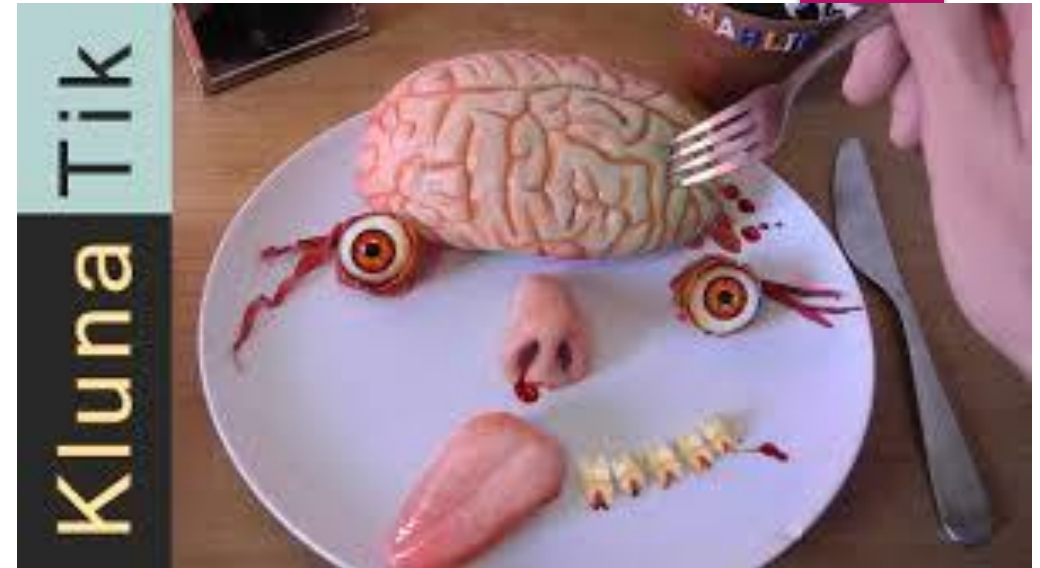
## TAKING LUNCH

- What is up with this phrase? Where would you take the lunch? To a date? At the movies? To a long walk by the beach? The proper phrase would be having lunch.



## DON'T EAT MY BRAINS

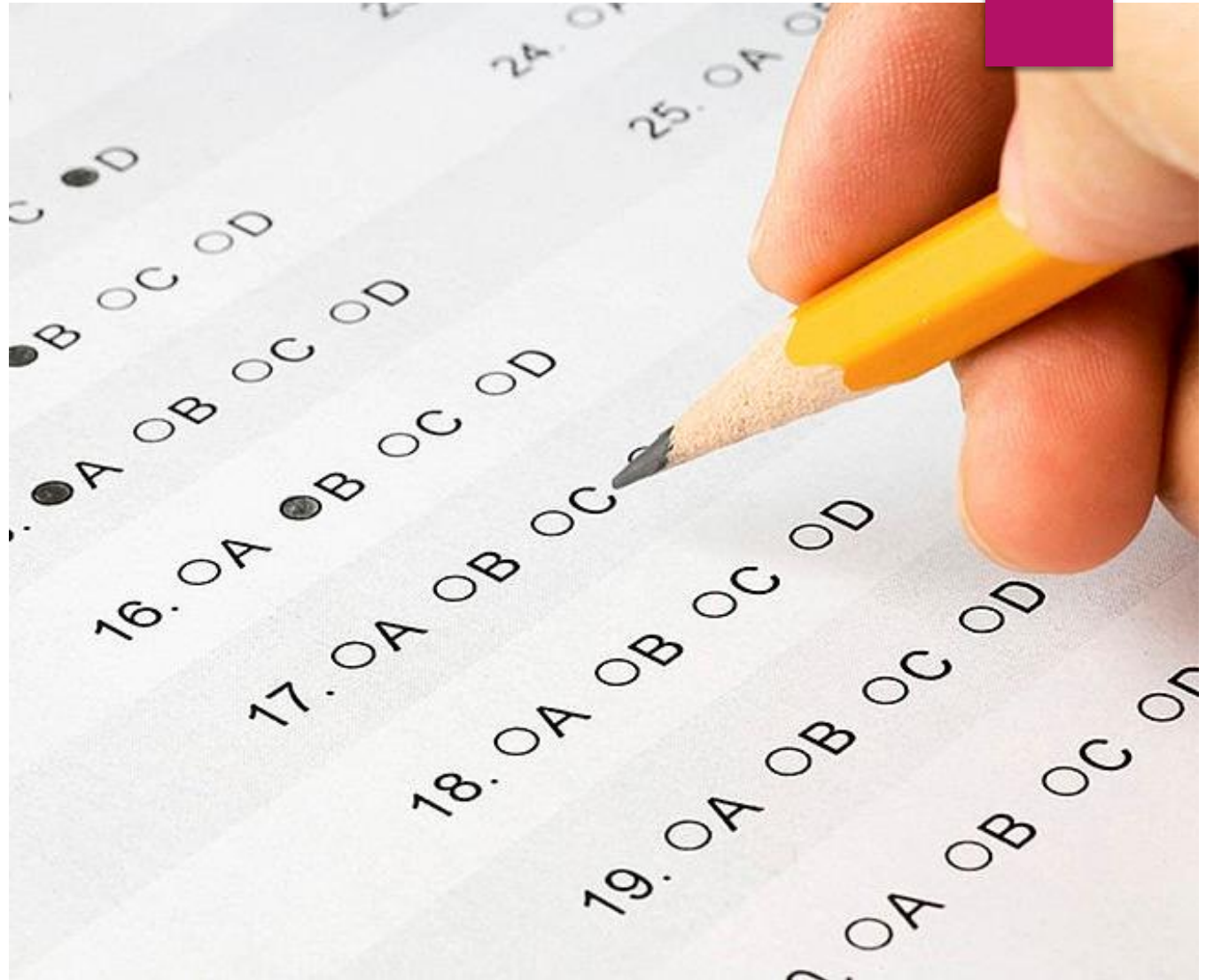
- ▶ One of those colloquialisms we love to use in times of irritation.
- ▶ "Eat my head" is another variation.
- ▶ While your dietary choices are your own, should you decide not to take up the challenge above.





# GIVE AN EXAM

- ▶ “When are you giving the board exams?”  
“Are you going to give the SATs?” The correct word is “take.” You take the board exams. You take the SATs. You can also say sit the exams.



# TIME PASS

- ▶ Used to refer to an activity that aids in the aimless passing of time, “time pass” is one of India’s most used “Indianisms.” What’s wrong with saying “I’m chilling” like the rest of the world?



# CUT THE CALL

- ▶ “***She just cut the call while I was talking.***”
- ▶ As Indians, we tend to be quite dramatic in our descriptions and the above sentence is probably a great example. Do we say it this way because cutting a call has more action, depth and weight than just a ‘hung up abruptly’?  
Say it better – “I was on the phone with her, when she **disconnected abruptly.**”



# KINDLY

- ▶ “*Kindly* tell me how to find the restroom.”
- ▶ Did you know that the many synonyms of the word ‘kindly’ are ‘warmly’, ‘affectionately’, ‘tenderly’ and ‘lovingly’? We have customized the word kindly to mean please. Incorrect customization. Say it better – “**Please** tell me where to find the restroom.”





# LEVEL BEST

- ▶ “I will try my *level best* to give the survey results to you by tomorrow.”
- ▶ It's like you are in a video game and at level 7, you'll do all you can to complete something. The word level is a dead weight. Drop it and you'll make much more sense. Say it better – “I'll do **my best** to provide the survey results tomorrow.”



# SIT ON THE HEAD

- ▶ “You have to *sit on her head* to get th
- ▶ Unless you are a sumo wrestler, it would be better not to resort to such tactics! Sitting on someone’s head is our way of expressing micromanagement, the Indian way. Say it better – “You’ll have to **constantly follow up** to get the approval.”





# CENT PERCENT

- ▶ “Are you **cent percent** sure she’ll comp
- ▶ The childhood chase for scoring the highest marks or being class topper still lives with us in our language. The need to be completely sure shows up in our language as ‘cent percent’. Say it better – “Are you **absolutely sure** she’ll complete the task?”



# DIY

- ▶ 1. Myself, Lata
- ▶ 2. What is your good name?
- ▶ 3. This coffee is too good
- ▶ 4. I went for a walk like that only
- ▶ 5. Where do you stay? (when people mean 'live')
- ▶ 6. I went to see a film
- ▶ 7. Go to the station and catch a train from there.
- ▶ 8. When will you return back?
- ▶ 9. Don't make me repeat that again.
- ▶ 10. Myself and my wife attended the function.



- ▶ 11. Let's discuss about the results of your action.
- ▶ 12. My boss is out of station at the moment.
- ▶ 13. Kindly revert back to the mail immediately.
- ▶ 14. I got up late today morning.
- ▶ 15. We are having a meeting in the afternoon.
- ▶ 16. I have sent you the instructions and want you to do the needful.
- ▶ 17. He passed out from college this year.
- ▶ 18. I will be stuck up in office all day today.
- ▶ 19. Can you please hold the line?
- ▶ 20. Mail me on indianisms@(at the rate of) gmail.com.
- ▶ 21. She is behind me to change my old phone.



Thank you!!  
Enjoy!



## MATRIMONIAL INDIANISMS

### WHEATISH

Are you talking about bread or chappati? Otherwise this subject is irrelevant in a matrimonial ad!



### FOREIGN RETURNED

And that makes you what? Extra eligible? Talk instead about the enriching global experiences.



### CLEAN HABITS

A reference to your good toilet habits? What's clean for one may not be true for another!



### HOMELY

Do you mean 'unattractive' or one who keeps a tidy house?



### TRADITIONAL VALUES

Proud that you're the grandparents' pet? Perhaps you belong in that era too?



## Murder of English

1. Pick up the paper and fall in the dustbin.
2. Both of you stand together separately.
3. Why are you looking at the monkeys outside when I am inside,
4. Will you hang the calendar or else I will hang myself.
5. I have 2 daughters both are girls.
6. Give me a blue pen of any color.
7. The principal is revolving in the corridor.
8. all of u stand in a straight circle
9. Open the Window - Let the AIRFORCE come in.

