

UNIQUE ENGLISH
made in India

INDIANISM
AND
WAYS TO
AVOID IT



WHAT IS INDIANISM?

Indianism refers to a word or phrase which is a characteristic of Indian English.

Indianism may also refer to the way a sentence has been structured as if it was literally translated from an Indian language to English

Often, these may be misinterpreted or misunderstood by native English speakers, hence must be avoided.



'WHAT IS YOUR GOOD NAME ?'

- Are you suggesting that a person has two names -- a good one and a bad one?
- And that she or he should only be telling you her or his good name?
- This is a typical example of thoughtless translation from Hindi -- *Aap ka shubh naam kya hai?*

Instead just say: 'What is your name?'

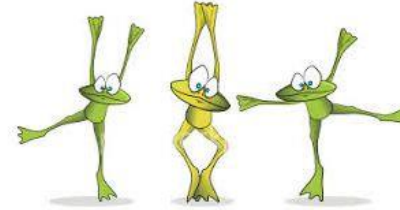


Courtesy SlideShare





'DANCED ON'



Remember the time when you 'danced on' the *Summer of '69*?....Well, you didn't !

Because you dance **to** a song and not **on** a song!

You could however dance 'on top' of a bar or a table but it'''
always be 'to' a song and not 'on' it!



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‘BACKSIDE’

We often ask for directions to which many people reply, saying, the entrance to the place you are looking for is 'from the backside'?

Backside typically refers to a person's buttocks

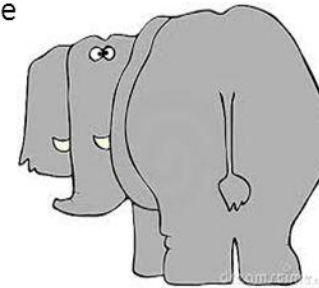
So you can imagine how terribly, inappropriate it is to say that ?

Instead of saying,

The entrance to the building is from the backside

you can say,

The entrance to the building is from the rear



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'REAL BROTHER/SISTER'

- Commonly used phrases, 'Real Brother' or 'Real Sister'
- Are there unreal one? Even if they are then what do they signify?
- Actually in India we call our immediate siblings as real brother or sister & others as cousin brother and sisters.
- In the outer world there is either brother /sister or cousins.



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'ATM MACHINE'



The full form of ATM is **Automated Teller Machine**

So the next time you say ATM machine, think of its full form & ask yourself how this sentence would sound:

'I need to withdraw some money from the Automated Teller Machine machine.'

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'7 AM IN THE MORNING'

The phrase '7 am in the morning' is wrong because of the redundancy of the word morning

You are indicating the time of the day when you say 'am' or 'pm', so it is unnecessary to repeat it

Therefore, the correct sentences would be: **I wake up at 7 am**



Courtesy SlideShare



SLEEP IS COMING

"I'm going to bed now, sleep is coming."

"OK, say hi to it for me"!!!

Here it sounds like sleep is a person & we are going to meet sleep



Courtesy SlideShare



'DO ONE THING'

We often tell someone to 'do one thing' and make them do 4 or 5 tasks

Of course you are again translating from Hindi -- '*Ek kaam kijiye hamara...*'

So instead of saying,

'Do one thing... get me a pen, paper, stapler & some glue!'

Just Say

'Could you please do me a favour & get me a pen, paper, stapler & some glue?'

Courtesy SlideShare



‘ME AND MY FRIEND’

This is a common grammatical error

Instead we'd say don't make everything about yourself and put yourself at the end

Therefore, instead of saying, 'Me and my friend went out for a movie.' Say 'My friend and I went out for a movie.'



Courtesy SlideShare



PROPOSE

How often have you heard from your college gossip queen that person X had 'proposed' person Y?

When we use the word 'propose' in India, we usually mean 'asking out on a date'.

So if you've told that cutie in your office that you like her and ask her out for coffee, don't go around telling people you've 'proposed' her.

What you have done is, well, just asked her out for coffee! Nothing more :-)

However, when you ask her to marry you formally, you would have finally 'proposed to' her (and not 'proposed' her).

Courtesy Rediff.com



REPEATED TWICE

Talking of repetition, how often have you found yourself being frustrated at having to 'repeat twice' or 'repeat again' something you've said already?

You can imagine the frustration then of the person who will tell you that repeat already suggests something having been done (or said) twice over!

So instead of saying:

'I would like to repeat myself twice.'

Say:

'I would like to repeat myself.'

Courtesy Rediff.com





PLEASE PUT A MAIL

Wait, what?

Where would you want us to 'put' a mail?

And how exactly would you like us to 'put' it?

When you say 'Put a mail', you are most likely (and unconsciously) transliterating from colloquial Hindi -- 'Ek mail daal do'.
Just. Plain. Wrong.

Instead say:

'Please could you write me an email about it?'

OR

'Please could you put that down on email?'

Courtesy Rediff.com



The background features a white surface adorned with traditional Indian decorative elements. In the top left, there is a circular purple and gold mandala. To its right is a pile of bright orange-red powder. In the top right corner, a portion of a blue and white patterned plate is visible. The bottom left shows a pile of yellow-orange powder, and the bottom right features a green and white patterned plate. The central text is written in a large, elegant, black cursive script and is underlined.

Do the Needful

An Indian English phrase meaning
"do what needs to be done."





Common Usage:

~Myself Anamika.

Appropriate:

~I am Anamika.

#LetsSpeakUp



- ▶ Revert means to go back, so when you say revert back it means go back back



**DO THE
NEEDFUL
ON PRIORITY
AND KINDLY
REVERT BACK**



A woman with long dark hair and a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of surprise or excitement. She is wearing a dark top with a white polka-dot collar. The background is dark with out-of-focus white string lights and a white balloon. A purple banner is at the top, and a dark purple banner is at the bottom.

We Are Like This Only

Most popular Indianism of all, 'only' is used at the end of every sentence and there is no point in asking us to stop using this word. We all reply with the same, "We are like this, only".



.....

When an Indian student finishes
their high school or college.

"I passed out a year ago."

"What happened to you? Were you sick?"

"No, I cheated in the exams."



- ▶ Pass out means become unconscious
- ▶ If pass out 'in' college, you would be rushed to the hospital or brought back to your senses by sprinkling water on your face - a la Indian soap opera style.
- ▶ It's just that you don't pass out of college, you graduate.



- ▶ **Station** means a place on a railway line where trains stop or it is a place where a specified service is based.
- ▶ By saying, “I am going out of station” you literally mean as if you are a train!
- ▶ Rather put it as “I am going out of town”



TO BE CONTINUED...

