**MISTAKES MADE BY INDIANS IN ENGLISH**

**Indianism** is a term exclusive to Indian English.

* **Anticlockwise** – counter-clockwise
* **Any doubts?** – “Any questions?”
* **Avail –** get
* **Bike** – “cycle”
* **Canteen** – cafeteria
* **Come home** – come over to my home
* **Cousin-brother/Cousin-sister** – a relative you consider your brother or sister because of growing up very close to them, but you don’t actually have the same mother and father
* **Curd** – yogurt
* **Cut the call** – hang up abruptly
* **Cut the queue** – jump in front of you when in a line
* **Designation** – job title
* **Do the needful** – Do that is needed/required
* **Dustbin –** trash can or waste basket
* **Expired –**died; My father expired
* **Good name** – first name; What is your good name?
* **Got fired** – got yelled at; doesn’t necessarily mean someone lost his/her job
* **Holiday** – vacation
* **Kindly** – please
* **Level Best –**my best.  I’ll do my level best
* **Mugging up** – cramming, or memorizing before an exam
* **Out of station** – out of town
* **Passed out** – graduated
* **Pen Drive** – thumb drive, zip drive, jump drive, memory stick
* **Petrol Bunk** – gas station
* **PIN code** – area code, or zip code
* **Prepone** – to advance or move up the time
* **Puncture** – flat tire (or tyre)
* **Purse** – wallet
* **Query**– a question
* **Queue** – a line of people
* **Revert** – get back; Kindly revert
* **Saloon** – a place to get your hair cut; not a bar
* **Snap**– picture; Let’s take some snaps before we leave
* **Standard –** grade, as in level of schooling; I am going into 8th standard
* **System** – computer;  I need a new system to complete the work
* **Tariff** – Charges, or a rate card
* **Tie-up**– a partnership. We have a tie-up with several good distributors
* **Tight slap** – a really good slap; I wanted to give that boy a tight slap
* **Time waste** – waste of time
* **Two-wheeler** – a motorcycle or a scooter (occasionally a bicycle)
* **Wedding anniversary**-marriage anniverary
* **Write an exam** – to take an exam (not produce one); I am writing my exam on Friday

**Examples:**  
  
I have done the needful. – **Incorrect**

I have done what is necessary or needed. – **Correct**

Please do the needful. – **Incorrect**

Please do what is necessary or needed. – **Correct**

Kindly revert back to me. – **Incorrect**

Please reply to me. – **Correct**

**Reply back**

Please reply back as soon as possible. – **Incorrect**

Please reply as soon as possible. – **Correct**

**Prepone**  
  
I have preponed the meeting. – **Incorrect**

I have rescheduled the meeting to. – **Correct**

**Please do XYZ without fail**

Here, please is a request and without fail is an order.

**Examples:**  
  
Kindly attend the meeting without fail. – **Incorrect**

Please attend the meeting. Do not fail me in this. – **Correct**

**Please intimate me**

To intimate is a rare verb meaning to inform someone **privately**.

**Examples:**  
  
Please intimate me. – **Incorrect**

Please inform me. – **Correct**

**Do one thing**

**Do one thing** is the direct translation of **Ek kaam karo** and this usage is incorrect. Person starting a sentence with “do one thing” phrase, invariable ends up in giving more than one instructions.  
**Examples:**  
  
**Scenario:** My computer keeps getting hung.

**Indian Usage:** Do one thing. Clear your history. Delete your cookies. Defrag your hard drive.

Run a virus check. Restart your computer.

**Correct Usage:** Do the following:

Clear your history.

Delete your cookies.

Defrag your hard drive.

Run a virus check.

Restart your computer.

Do one thing. Take a left turn there. – **Incorrect**

You can take a left turn there. – **Correct**

Let’s do one thing, let’s order both veg and non-veg. – **Incorrect**

Let’s order Vegetarian and Non Vegetarian. – **Correct**

Do one thing, set the headline in Times New Roman. – **Incorrect**

You can set the headline in Times New Roman. – **Correct**

You have carpal tunnel? Do one thing, adjust your chair higher, put something underneath your

feet, and put the keyboard on your lap. – **Incorrect**

You have carpal tunnel? Adjust your chair higher, put something underneath your feet, and put

the keyboard on your lap. – **Correct**

**Note:** Carpal tunnel means cramp.

**Out of Station**

Out of Station is widely used in India which is **incorrect**.

**Examples:**   
  
If you lose your card or it stops working and you happen to be out of station, then you cannot apply for a new card. – **Incorrect**

If you lose your card or it stops working and you happen to be out of town, then you cannot apply for a new card. – **Correct**

He is out of station. – **Incorrect**

He is out of town. – **Correct**

**Discuss about**

The word discuss means to talk about. There is no need to insert the word about after discuss.  
  
**Examples:**  
  
What shall we discuss about today? – **Incorrect**

What shall we discuss today? – **Correct**

Let’s discuss about the issues. – **Incorrect**

Let’s discuss the issues. – **Correct**

**Order for**

When you order something, you order it, you do not order for it.

**Examples:**

Ordering for Pizza. – **Incorrect**

Ordering Pizza. – **Correct**

I’ll order for Pizza. – **Incorrect**

I’ll order Pizza. – **Correct**

How to order for Pizza? – **Incorrect**

How to order Pizza. – **Correct**

**Can be able to**

Both can and able to hold the same meaning.

**Examples:**  
  
I can be able to do it. – **Incorrect**

I will be able to do it. – **Correct**

I can do it. – **Correct**

You can be able to understand. – **Incorrect**

You will be able to understand. – **Correct**

You can understand. – **Correct**

I can be able to communicate in English with people all over the world. – **Incorrect**

I am able to communicate in English with people all over the world. – **Correct**

I will be able to communicate in English with people all over the world. – **Correct**

Here are a few examples of Indianism:

* **What’s your good name?**
* *Meant: What’s your name? – Transliteration from Hindi.*
* **I’m a professional cooker.**
* *Meaning a chef. The explanation for this is when you can say footballer, singer, lecturer,*

*cricketer, player, and teacher: all these profession names end with an “-er” why can’t we*

*say cooker?!*

* **My uncle is on top of my father**
* *Meant: My uncle lives on the floor above us.*
* **Where are you put up?**
* *Someone who wants to know where you stay (in which area of a city).*
* **Sheela herself only did this project.**
* *Meant: Sheela did this project without any help. / Sheela did this project all by herself.*
* **Where your house comes?**
* *Meant: Can you give me directions to your house?*
* **I passed out last year from college.**
* *Meant: I graduated last year from college.*
* **Are you coming to my house for dinner tonight, no?**
* *A tendency to add “no” before the end of every question.*
* **She is fully tired, ya!**
* *Meant: She is very tired or completely tired: unnecessary usage of “ya” which is different* f*rom “yeah”.*
* **My mother said me to go to the market.**
* *Meant: My mother asked me to go to the market.*
* **I didn’t went to school today.**
* *Incorrect verb conjugation: I didn’t go to school today.*
* **Just like only I went to my uncle’s place.**
* *Meant: I went to my uncle’s house for the heck of it.*
* **I’m having a lot of work now.**
* *Meant: I have a lot of work now.*
* **I saw it happening with my own two eyes!**
* *Meant: It happened right in front of me.*
* **Yesterday, I will be going for a movie.**
* *Meant: Yesterday I went for a movie; incorrect tense usage.*
* **She couldn’t be able to help you.**
* *Meant: She was unable to help you; incorrect verb conjugation.*
* **I like listening musics.**
* *Meant: I like to listen to music. Preposition “to” dropped, and “music” does not have a* p*lural form.*
* **My mother made me to study hard.**
* *Meant: My mother ensured that I studied hard.*
* **Before me, there are two brothers, then is me, three more sisters are coming.**  
  *What was meant was: I have two elder brothers and three younger sisters.*

1-I am very much pleased to see you.

Correct- I am very pleased to see you.

2-I went to the stadium for playing football.

C- I went to the stadium to play football.

3-What to do?

I think, it's wrong but I am not sure. (Correct- What am I do?)

4-He talks English very well.

C- he speaks English very well.

5-My birth date is 29th August.

C-My date of birth is 29th August.

6-The water is good for drinking.

C- The water is good to drink.

7-I came here for the purpose to learn English.

C-I come here for the purpose of learning English.

8-My family members have gone to the New Delhi.

C-Members of my family have gone to the New Delhi.

9-He is an England return professor.

C-The professor has returned from England.

10- Are you still try to learning Hindi.

c- Are you still trying to learn Hindi?