

Indianism is a term exclusive to Indian English. It refers to a word or phrase which is a characteristic of Indian English. Often these may be misinterpreted or misunderstood by native English speakers, so it is important to avoid these.

- **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 anniversary
- **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 from “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 plural 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?