

### Assignment -1 Important Questions

Give a brief introduction of R. K. Narayan?
How does the author label the word 'check' as the in American national expression?
What is the importance of Reading?
In your opinion what has the language gained and what has it lost through 'toasting'.
What is a prefix and a suffix and give three examples to each
What are the techniques of Effective Reading? Explain in detail?
Define these terms with two examples: 1. Compounding 2. Blending 3. Acronyms
Define synonyms and antonyms with two examples?
Write a paragraph on 'True friendship'
What does the author mean by saying there should be a 'Bharath brand English'? Has English in India develop unique expression and usage?

### Study Material

#### UNIT 1: Toasted English by R.K. Narayan

Rasipuram Krishnaswami Iyer Narayanaswami, famously known as R.K. Narayan, was an Indian writer known for his work set in the fictional South Indian town of Malgudi. He was a leading author of early Indian literature in English along with Mulk Raj Anand and Raja Rao. Narayan's famous works include the semi-autobiographical trilogy of Swami and Friends, The Bachelor of Arts and The English Teacher. The fictional town of Malgudi was first introduced in another famous novel Swami and Friends. The Financial Expert was hailed as one of the most original works of 1951 and Sahitya Academy Award winner The Guide was adapted for the Hindi film Guide (winning a Filmfare Award for Best Film).

R.K. Narayan, in his essay "Toasted English" offers excellent examples to highlight the distinctions between American and British English. Narayan says that Americans have built their own version of English to fit their tastes and lifestyles making it simpler, more conversational, and more informal. They liberated themselves from the tyranny of the English in their use of the language, making it simpler to express themselves.

The phrase 'Toasted English,' even in America, actually refers to English muffins. Though they were actually created in America, still carry the 'English' label. Narayan opines that it is probably an acknowledgement of their own heritage. This process of 'toasting' of English language in America has led to the doing away of the rigidity and the formalism surrounding its use.

The author remarks that, much like Indians, Americans too drove the English (the English people) out of their country but allowed English language to stay. English usage is made simpler by the Americans by doing away with the suffocating rigidity of the Passive Voice. For example, in America, the phrase 'Trespassing Prohibited' on signboards has been replaced with an easy-sounding 'Newly Planted' or 'Do Not Walk' signs, either of which is much more straightforward than the expression used in the British English and provides no space for ambiguity. Additionally, many American office doors bear a notice that reads, 'Do Not Enter.'

Similarly, the traffic signs at pedestrian crossings are unambiguous providing the required clarity; they simply say 'Go' or 'Wait'. Americans have created a set of fundamental core terms with universal multipurpose use that may be used anytime, anywhere. For instance, the use of "O.K.," "Yeah," "Right?" and other similar expressions is widespread in their day-to-day communication. The author elaborates this further saying that Americans have evolved specific keywords like 'check' that can be used carelessly anywhere and anytime and still be considered acceptable for the situation! Narayan terms this word as "the American National Expression" considering its multiple meanings fitting almost any situation!

In his further analysis of "the bazaar status of English in London," R.K. Narayan remarks that English is used with finesse. When giving out tickets on a London bus, the conductor never says, "Ticket, Ticket," as his counterpart in India usually does! Instead, he simply walks up to the customer and merely says, "Thank you" before issuing the ticket and says another "Thank you" after it.

Narayan concludes by describing how we might customise English to meet our needs by developing a "Bharat brand of English." He nevertheless makes it clear that he opposes "mongrelization" i.e. creating something like a hybrid variety of English by violating the rules of grammar or mixing words of Indian languages with those of English. He explains that the mongrelisation of English can be avoided by respecting the rule of law and preserving the dignity of grammar. According to the author, Indian English ought to have its own unique stamp, or "Swadeshi Stamp." He elaborates that the Bharat brand of English or Indian English would have to come to the dusty street, the market place, and under the banyan tree with a unique swadeshi stamp, much like the expressions Madras handloom check shirt or the Tirupati doll. The author aspires for Indians to create an English that is more distinctive and creative than the English spoken in India now.

## **2. READING**

Reading is a method of communication that enables a person to turn writing into meaning. It allows the reader to convert a written text into a meaningful language with independence, comprehension, and fluency, and to interact with the message.

### **Why Reading is Important?**

While going through an article, you might have come across some words which confuse you or certain words that you hardly even recognize. Finding out their meaning and regularly reading can be the best solution for you to enhance your vocabulary and expand your knowledge.

### **Importance of Reading in Polishing Your Mind**

Reading requires you to have the patience to build a cognitive perspective. This is considered to be a prime brain-stimulating activity to sharpen your mind. Individuals engaged in reading have a slower memory decline than those who avoid reading. It also improves memory and builds focus.

### **Importance of Reading in Strengthening Your Writing Ability**

Having a strong vocabulary can readily benefit you to strengthen your writing ability both personally and professionally. It inspires writers to stay positive and express their thoughts more clearly. Reading helps us in developing a knack for understanding the perspective of different authors that helps in writing about things by ourselves. It is very crucial to comprehend the subject matter and allow our memory to retain it.

### **Importance of Reading in Lowering Stress**

Reading leads you on a journey to another world. People reading literature or novels require a lot of concentration which allows them to stay away from the distraction in their lives which in turn promotes inner calmness and enhances overall health.

### **Importance of Reading in Reducing Depression**

Reading is an essential aspect of learning and has multiple benefits attached to the exercise. Reading is important because it makes you more empathetic, and knowledgeable and stimulates your imagination. A study conducted by the University of Sussex showed that reading reduces stress by 68%. It helps in reducing tension and relax muscles which in turn helps people sleep better and stay healthy.

### **Importance of Reading in Increasing Your Vocabulary**

Medicinal therapies to combat depression can be reduced by incorporating reading habits. This is exactly what self-help books, novels, blogs, articles, and non-fiction books contribute. Reading is found to lower heart rate, reduce stress and decrease blood pressure.

### **Importance of Reading in Enhancing One's Imagination**

Reading is just like a spider web, linking things you know to things you just learn and creating innovative solutions. You work on your dreams when you start imagining them. Imagination also allows an individual to be empathetic toward people and their struggles.

### **Importance of Reading in Providing Entertainment and Peace of Mind**

Reading is one of the simplest entertainment entities for humans. Human beings tend to be fascinated by the world of stories and books open up alternate worlds to explore. This not just transcends us to another reality but also helps us in distancing from our daily problems for a while.

### **Importance of Reading in Promoting Positive Sleeping**

Books are perfect company at night before you doze off because it allows your body muscles to relax and your mind to distress. It is known that one can have a sound sleep when one's brain is happy and one is comfortable in their own space. However, it is preferable to grab a printed book than any gadget before you settle in for some dreams.

## **3. The Concept of Word Formation –The Use of Prefixes and Suffixes**

In linguistics, word formation is the creation of a new word. Word formation is sometimes contrasted with semantic change, which is a change in a single word's meaning. The boundary between word formation and semantic change can be difficult to define as a new use of an old word can be seen as a new word derived from an old one and identical to it in form. There are four main kinds of word formation. They are prefixes, suffixes, conversion and compounds.

But we are going to see prefixes and Suffixes only. Prefixes and suffixes are sets of letters that are added to the beginning or end of another word. They are not words in their own right and cannot stand on their own in a sentence: if they are printed on their own they have a hyphen before or after them.

### **Prefixes**

Prefixes are added to the beginning of an existing word in order to create a new word with a different meaning. For example:

<i>word</i>	<i>Prefix</i>	<i>new word</i>
happy	un-	unhappy
cultural	multi-	multicultural
work	over-	overwork
space	cyber-	cyberspace

market      super-      supermarket

### Suffixes

Suffixes are added to the end of an existing word. For example:

<i>word</i>	<i>Suffix</i>	<i>new word</i>
child	-ish	childish
work	-er	worker
taste	-less	tasteless
idol	-ize/-ise	idolize/idolise
like	-able	likeable

The addition of a suffix often changes a word from one word class to another. In the table above, the verb like becomes the adjective likeable, the noun idol becomes the verb idolize, and the noun child becomes the adjective childish.

### Word creation with prefixes and suffixes

Some prefixes and suffixes are part of our living language, in that people regularly use them to create new words for modern products, concepts, or situations. For example:

<i>word</i>	<i>prefix or suffix</i>	<i>new word</i>
security	bio-	biosecurity
clutter	de-	declutter
media	multi-	multimedia
email	-er	emailer

## 4. Techniques for Effective Reading

- ☐ decide why you are reading- is it for brief and specific information, for detailed understanding or for analyzing what is presented critically
- ☐ understand the organizational patterns of different kinds of texts
- ☐ use context to guess the meaning of unfamiliar words.
- ☐ make notes while reading
- ☐ do not worry about speed of reading initially
- ☐ Focus on enhancing your vocabulary

**Skimming:** Also called getting the ‘gist’ of the text, skimming is a reading technique where you can glance over the material to find what you are looking for. This is best used when you already know the general idea of the text. You can also skim material before going for further reading. Getting a first glance of how a chapter or article is laid out, for example, will help you to know where to look for key information on the second read.

Use skimming for:

Reading service or product reviews

Going over a speech last minute

Quick research

Quick review before an exam

Skimming can save you a lot of time by making you aware of the key points without fully comprehending the entire text. It will also save you time if you need to re-read the material more in-depth at a later time.

## **5. Synonyms and Antonyms – Meanings**

The Synonyms and antonyms are an important concept to learn while you are working on your vocabulary. Synonyms are often used to flavour the text and make it diverse and colourful. Synonyms and Antonyms are featured in many competitive exams and thus we have this section dedicated to the concepts of Synonyms and Antonyms.

Before learning various words of synonyms and antonyms, let us first understand the meaning of both the words.

### **What is a Synonym?**

A synonym is a word/phrase, the meaning of which is the same or nearly the same as another word or phrase. Words that are synonyms are described as synonymous.

#### **Synonym examples:**

- Artful – Crafty
- Ballot – Poll
- Chorus – Refrain
- Deceptive – Misleading
- Enormous – Immense

### **What is an Antonym?**

An antonym is a word/phrase that means the opposite of another word or phrase. Check the examples.

#### **Antonym examples:**

- Admire – Detest
- Bravery – Cowardice
- Crooked – Straight
- Dainty – Clumsy
- Economise – Waste

## 6. Word formation

**Compounding** creates words by simply joining two existing words. Neologisms created through compounding often start off as hyphenated words, but over time the hyphen gets dropped from the compound word.

key + word = keyword

well + known = well-known

market + place = marketplace

self + sufficient = self-sufficient

**Blending** creates words by combining parts of two or more words. These neologisms are referred to as **portmanteau words**. A portmanteau word fuses both the sounds of the original words and the meanings of its components.

breakfast + lunch = brunch

smoke + fog = smog

spoon + fork = spork

binary + unit = bit

Note that blending is different from compounding: blending combines *parts* of existing words (lion + tiger = liger), whereas compounding combines *whole* words (class + room = classroom).

**Clipping** creates words by shortening an existing word. The meaning of the original word (or its grammatical class) doesn't change.

advertisement → ad

internet → net

refrigerator → fridge

fabulous → fab

mathematics → maths

spectacles → specs

gymnasium → gym

popular → pop

telephone → phone

**Acronyms** are words formed by combining the first letters or syllables of a longer phrase; for example, **radar**, which is a shortening of radio detection and ranging.

light amplification by stimulated emission of radiation → laser

graphics interchange format → GIF

self-contained underwater breathing apparatus → scuba

personal identification number → PIN

The English language shortens and abbreviates words in many ways, and the term **acronym** is often specifically used for shortenings that can be pronounced as a single whole word (for example, **AIDS** or **UNICEF**) whereas shortenings that are pronounced by spelling out each individual letter are often termed *initialisms* (for example, *ATM* or *HIV*).