

UNIT-5

GO, KISS THE WORLD

- Subroto Bagchi

SUMMARY:

Go, Kiss The World is an extract from the Welcome Address by Chief Operating Officer, MindTree Consulting, Mr.Subroto Bagchi. The address was delivered on 2nd July 2004 at the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore. Being a successful entrepreneur, Subroto Bagchi has become an author of business and has written a book of the same name. The speech delivered by Subroto Bagchi displays his wisdom as well as the lessons taught to him by his parents. The lessons are about the real meaning of success and are also related to the events from Bagchi's life.

Subroto's father was a District Employment Officer in Koraput, Orissa, and Subroto was their fifth and the last child. Koraput was a district without electricity and water did not use to run through taps. There were no primary schools due to which Subroto's schooling was done at home. Subroto's mother had come as a refugee from East Bengal and was raised by a widow.

Subroto's father used to get transferred every year. Therefore, they had to move frequently and travel in the jeep which was provided by the government. There was no garage in his father's office due to which the jeep was parked at his house. His father never used the jeep to commute to the office and taught the same lesson to Subroto. He told Subroto that it was an expensive resource given by the government, hence should not be misused. From this came Subroto's first lesson, the lesson to never misuse public facilities.

Subroto and his brothers were also not allowed to call the jeep's driver by his name and were always advised to add the suffix "*Dada*" before his name. When Subroto grew up, he taught the same lesson to his daughters and they were supposed to call their driver "*uncle*". Subroto used to cringe every time he would hear other people disrespecting their drivers. The second lesson was to respect their subordinates more than their seniors as it is more important to respect every human being irrespective of their position.

Subroto's father had put the habit in Subroto, of reading the newspaper every day. He and his brothers were supposed to read the newspaper aloud with morning tea. Although Subroto did not understand much of what was written in the newspaper, he feels that he is fluent in English due to his habit of reading newspapers during his childhood. After reading the newspaper, he was taught to fold it correctly. Another lesson which his father taught his brother and him was "*You should leave your newspaper and your toilet the way you expect to find it.*"

In their childhood, Subroto and his brothers were always attracted by radio and its advertisements in the newspaper, but their father refused to buy them, telling them that they



do not need a radio because their family already has five (referring to the children). This made up another lesson, “*not to measure personal success and sense of wellbeing through material possessions.*”

The quarters which the government gave to the Bagchi family rarely had fences. Subroto along with his mother used to make the fences with twigs and decorate the house with little plant seedlings. When other people asked Subroto’s mother that what is the need to beautify a government house, she replied to them that she had to create a bloom in a dessert and for that, she had to leave every place given to her more beautiful than what she had inherited. Subroto calls this his first lesson in success, “*It is not what you create for yourself, it is what you leave behind that defines success.**”

Subroto’s mother started developing cataract in her eyes when he was rather young. That time his eldest brother had got a job in teaching field in Bhubaneswar University and was also preparing for civil services examination. It was decided that Subroto’s mother and he would move to Bhubaneswar too, to facilitate the needs of his eldest brother. This was the first time that Subroto saw electricity in houses and water running from taps. Subroto’s routine was to read the Oriyan newspaper from head-to-toe for his mother. While reading the newspaper, Subroto used to feel a sense of larger connectedness with the world that made up of, another lesson for him was to relate himself to the larger world.

During that time, India was at war with Pakistan and Lal Bahadur Shastri’s words “*Jai Jawan Jai Kisan*“ sparked the country into unitedness. Subroto Bagchi felt the need to become a hero and dreamt of catching a terrorist. He desired to see his name in the first page of the newspaper. He decided to spend hours guarding the university’s water tank, imagining that a terrorist would come to poison it and he would be the one to catch him. His imagination became another lesson for him, a lesson that taught him that if he can imagine a future, he can create it and if he can create it, others will live it.

In the next few years, Subroto’s mother’s eyesight deteriorated. Therefore, she underwent a surgery and saw Subroto’s face for the first time. Subroto gets delighted every time when he remembers his mother’s words that praised him. Within few weeks of getting her vision back, Subroto’s mother developed corneal ulcer and became blind. She lived 32 years with her blindness but never even complained once. When Subroto asked her what she saw with those blind eyes, his mother replied that she did not see darkness but only light. Even at the age of eighty, Subroto’s mother performed her yoga everyday morning, cleaned her room and washed her clothes on her own in spite of being blind. This way Subroto’s mother taught him another lesson – Success is not to see the word but about seeing the light.

As Subroto grew up, he was employed as a clerk in a government office, then became a management trainee and finally settled with a job in IT industry for which he moved to the USA in 1992. During this time his father was leading a retired life. He suffered third-degree burns and was admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. It was a poorly maintained place with untidiness and overworked nurses. Subroto had visited the hospital to see his father. One



morning he realised that the blood bottle was empty, and air could have entered his father's body. Subroto asked the nurse to replace it but got the reply to do it himself. She was tired and overworked nurse. When he requested the nurse finally, she agreed to change it, Subroto was surprised to listen to his father, who was asking his nurse that why she had not gone home yet, though he was on his deathbed. That day Subroto learned that there is no limit of being concern for another human being and there is no limit while creating inclusion. Subroto's father died the following day but left his principles behind him to be followed by his children. According to Subroto's father, success is the ability of a human being to rise above his discomforts and not about creating material comforts.

Subroto's father was the believer of British Raj and doubted the capability of post-independence political parties to govern the country, whereas Subroto's mother believed the exact opposite. When she was young, she had garlanded Subhash Chandra Bose and had learned to spin khadi and using swords and daggers. Although Subroto's parents had different ideologies but still they lived together, this taught Subroto another lesson that success is not the ability to create a dogmatic end state but a process of continuous thinking.

Subroto's Mother died due to a paralytic stroke at the age of 82 in Bhubaneswar hospital. Subroto Bagchi had returned from the USA to see her and remained in the hospital for two weeks. His mother was not getting better but was neither getting worse. Subroto eventually had to return to work and was about to leave. He bowed down his head to kiss his mother's face before leaving and in a paralytic state his mother replied to him to not to kiss her but to kiss the world. The words "*Go, Kiss the World*" were uttered by Subroto's mother to him on her deathbed. Subroto's mother had come to India as a refugee and was raised by a widow, her husband's salary was just Rs300, and she had lost her eyesight but still was advising the author to go, kiss the world.

In the end, Subroto expresses, that success to him is about the vision and the ability to rise above pain. It is about imagination, sensitivity towards poor and needy, building inclusion, connectedness to the larger world and about personal tenacity. It is about giving back more to life and creating extraordinary success with ordinary lives.

Answer the following questions in about 50-100 words each.

1. Why did Bagchi's father never let them ride in the office jeep?

- A. Bagchi's father refused to use the jeep to commute to the office and made sure that his family never sat in the government jeep except when it was stationary. He reiterated to them that it was not 'his Jeep', but an expensive resource given to him by the government. He insisted that he would use it only to tour the interiors and would walk to his office on normal days.



2. Why did Bagchi's mother plant gardens even though they would move often?

- A. Neighbours were concerned about Bagchi's mother going to such lengths to beautify a government house, even though she would not see the flowers in full bloom; she planted gardens because she felt she owed it to the new occupant to make the place she inherited more beautiful. "I must create a bloom in a desert, and whenever I am given a new place, I must leave it more beautiful than what I inherited," she explained.

3. What was Bagchi's first lesson in success?

- A. Bagchi's mother would go to such lengths to beautify a government house even though she would not see the flowers in full bloom; when asked why she planted gardens she replied "I must create a bloom in a desert and whenever I am given a new place, I must leave it more beautiful than what I had inherited". This was the first lesson in success, that it is not about what you create for yourself, it is what you leave behind that defines success.

4. Why did Bagchi have to move to Bhubaneswar?

- A. Bagchi's mother developed cataract in her eyes when he was very young. His eldest brother was teaching at Bhubaneswar University at the time, and he was also studying for the civil services examination. It was decided that their mother would relocate to Bhubaneswar for the eldest brother's cooking needs and Subroto would accompany as an appendage to his mother.

5. How does Bagchi relate imagination to success?

- A. Bagchi read the local newspaper to his mother as she developed cataract. This instilled in him a sense of belonging to the larger world. During the 1965 war between India and Pakistan, the then-Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri coined the phrase "Jai Jawan Jai Kisan" and galvanised the nation in patriotic fervour, which made Bagchi wonder how he could be a part of the action, so he decided to protect the water tank, imagining the spies to poison the water, but the spies ignored the sleepy town. Nonetheless, this act unlocked his imagination, he claims that imagination is everything. If we can imagine a future, we can create it, if we can create the future, others will live in it. That is the essence of success.

B. Describe the political outlook of Bagchi's parents?

- A. On the deathbed of Sufderjung hospital in Delhi, his father was concerned about the overworked nurse than his own state. There Bagchi learnt that there was no limit to how concerned you can



be for another human being and what the limit of inclusion you can create. The success of his father was defined by his principles, his frugality, his universalism, and his sense of inclusion. There was diversity in political outlook of his father and mother, on common issues concerning the world, the two had different opinions. The success is in the power of disagreement, of dialogues and the essence of living with diversity in thinking. Success is not about the ability to create a definitive dogmatic end state it is about the unfolding of thought process of dialogue and continuum.

Answer the following questions in about 250-300 words each

Q.1. Describe the morning ritual in Bagchi's house and bring out its importance?

Ans. Go Kiss the World is an excerpt from Mr. Subroto Bagchi's Welcome Address as Chief Operating Officer of Mind Tree Consulting. The speech was given on July 2, 2004, at the Indian Institute of Management in Bangalore. Subroto Bagchi, a successful entrepreneur, has become a business author and has written a book of the same name, directing his teachings to the entire world.

Subroto Bagchi's speech tells us about his words of wisdom and the lessons his parents taught him. The lessons are aimed at illuminating the meaning of success and are based on events in Bagchi's life. Subroto's father worked as a District Employment Officer in Koraput, Orissa, and he was the family's fifth and the last child.

Bagchi recalls that their day used to begin with the family huddling around their mother's chulha - an earthen fireplace she would build at each posting to cook for the family. There were no gas or electric stoves. The morning routine began with a cup of tea. Father would ask them to read aloud the editorial page of The Statesman's 'Muffosil' edition, which was delivered one day late. They were confused by much of what they were reading. But the ritual was intended to show them that the world was bigger than Koraput district, and the English he speaks today, despite having attended an Oriya medium school, is a result of that ritual. They were instructed to fold the newspaper neatly after reading it aloud.

"You should leave your newspaper and toilet in the same condition you expect to find them," his father used to say. That lesson was all about respecting others.

Nonetheless, this simple principle serves as the foundation for all businesses, and Subroto discovered the importance of measuring personal success and happiness in terms of material possessions.



Q.2. Describe the last days of Bagchi's father in the hospital?

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As Bagchi grew up, he got a job as a clerk in a government office, became a management trainee and finally settled with a job in IT industry for which he moved to the USA in 1992. During this time his father was living a retired life with his brother when he suffered third-degree burns and was admitted to the Safdarjung Hospital, Delhi. Safdarjung Hospital was a poorly maintained place with untidiness and overworked nurses. Subroto had returned to see his father, one morning he realised that the blood bottle is empty, and air could have entered his body. Therefore, Subroto asked the nurse to replace it but got the reply to do it himself by the tired, overworked nurse. When the nurse finally agreed to change it, Subroto was surprised to see the man who himself was on his deathbed was asking his nurse that why she hadn't gone home yet. That day Subroto learned that there's no limit to how much a person can concern for another person and the limit of inclusion he can create. Subroto's father died the following day but left his principles behind.

According to Bagchi's father, success is the person's ability to rise above his discomforts and not about creating material comforts.

Q.3. What created in Bagchi a sense of interconnectedness with the large world?

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Bagchi's mother developed cataracts in her eyes when he was very young. His eldest brother was teaching at Bhubaneswar University at the time, and he was also studying for the civil services examination. It was decided that their mother would relocate to Bhubaneswar for the eldest brother's cooking needs and Subroto would accompany her as an appendage to his mother. This was Bagchi's first experience with electricity and running water from taps. Bagchi's daily task was to read the Oriya script newspaper from cover to cover for his mother. Subroto used to feel a sense of larger connectedness with the world while reading the newspaper.

This made up another lesson for Subroto, and created in him a sense of connectedness with the larger world.

Technical Vocabulary

Technical vocabulary generally refers to words and phrases that are used and known mainly in a specific profession, trade, for simplicity purposes, or subject area.

General Technical Vocabulary

absorb, absorption, accumulation, artefact, coefficient, complement, computation, compensate, cyclic, criteria, critically, diagram, diameter, differential, encode, empirical, gram, graph, pathway, locus, prevalence, numerical, nucleus, sensitivity, sensory, statistical, technically, quantitative, qualitative, wavelength, transcribe, transmission, variance, vector, validity, scatter

Mechanical and civil engineering vocabulary

absorb, acceleration, accuracy, compensate, convergence, array, coefficient, computation, connector, congruent, crystal, cylinder, decay, deflection, degrade, deviation, diagram, diameter, differential, dimensional, displacement, elasticity, electron, friction, fusion, graph, gradient, partition, oxidize, locus, numerical, static, sphere, thermal, spatial, valve, transmit, wavelength, vector, scatter



Chemical engineering vocabulary

absorb, absorption, accumulation, carrier, aerosol, acidic, array, biodiversity, chemistry, chemotherapy, clone, cyclic, criteria, critically, crystal, cylinder, decay, defect, deficiency, degrade, diffusion, dioxide, discharge, dye, elasticity, electron, emit, empirical, encode, enzyme, epidemic, fusion, graph, helix, particle, oxygen, oxidize, metabolism, membrane, nitrogen, precipitation, precipitate, pathway, nucleus, sensory, splice, thermal, quantitative, qualitative, reactive, reactor, wavelength, transmission, scatter

Electrical engineering vocabulary

accumulation, acceleration, accuracy, convergence, array, atomic, coefficient, complement, computation, connector, cyclic, crystal, cylinder, deflection, deviation, diameter, differential, diffusion, dimensional, electron, friction, fusion, graph, gradient, pathway, locus, numerical, processor, nucleus, sphere, thermal, quantitative, qualitative, spatial, valve, transmit, wavelength, transcribe, transmission, variance, vector, scatter

Biomedical engineering vocabulary

absorb, absorption, accumulation, algorithm, accuracy, carrier, adaptation, compensate, acidic, adaptation, array, artefact, clip, clone, adverse, cyclic, criteria, decay, defect, degrade, developmental, diagnostic, discharge, displacement, dye, enzyme, epidemic, helix, hepatitis, herbicide, metabolism, membrane, pathway, locus, prevalence, sensitivity, sensory, splice, tech, thermal, quantitative, qualitative, sodium, toxic, tract, reactive, transmission, variant, vector

Computer science engineering vocabulary

algorithm, regression, variability, progression, vector, nonlinear, binary, translation, transformation, Subtract, valid, validity, variance, vector, scroll, span, spatial, utility, randomly, threshold, theorem, standardize, prediction, simulation, separate, semantic, numerical, nominal, replication, robot, Protocol, processor, progression, radiation, radar, pulse, loop, longitudinal, linear, matrix, mathematical, impulse magnetic, ethics, interval, manual, infinity, integral, inference, indicator, empirical, encode, differential, derivative,

Common Errors in English

In the previous four units, we looked at some common errors made with reference to articles and prepositions (Unit 1), noun—pronoun agreement and subject—verb agreement (Unit 2), and misplaced modifiers and tenses (Unit 3). We have also examined a few other areas that learners of English often have problems with, such as word order and punctuation (Unit 1), and words commonly misspelt or confused (Units 2 and 3 respectively). In this lesson, we will take a quick look at some more common errors that we haven't examined before.



Exercises:

In each pair of sentences, tick the sentence that is correctly structured:

1.a.The bag was so heavy that I could not carry it.

b.The bag was very heavy that I could not carry it.

Answer: a.The bag was so heavy that I could not carry it.

2.a.Where you are staying?

b.Where are you staying?

Answer: b.Where are you staying?

3.a.Satish went to hospital to get his blood pressure checked.

b.Satish went to the hospital to get his blood pressure checked.

Answer: a.Satish went to hospital to get his blood pressure checked.

4.a.Salma gave the bracelet to me.

b.Salma gave to me the bracelet.

Answer: a.Salma gave the bracelet to me.

5.a.The salesperson asked the customer what she was looking for.

b. The salesperson asked the customer what she is looking for.

Answer: a.The salesperson asked the customer what she was looking for.

6.a.We not only have to book our tickets but also arrange for accommodation.

b.We have to not only book our tickets but also arrange for accommodation.

Answer: b.We have to not only book our tickets but also arrange for accommodation.

7.a.The traffic in Bangalore is worse than that of Hyderabad.

b.The traffic in Bangalore is worse than Hyderabad.

Answer: a.The traffic in Bangalore is worse than that of Hyderabad.

8.a.Saba avoided meeting people.

b.Saba avoided to meet people.

Answer: a.Saba avoided meeting people.



B. Give the plural form of the following words. If a word has two plural forms, give both.

Answers:

1. scarf-scarfs, scarves
 2. axis-axes, axis
 3. fungus-fungi
 4. valley-valleys
 5. baby-babies
 6. antenna- antennas, antennae
 7. piano-pianos
 8. nucleus-nuclei, nucleuses

C. Choose the correct collocation in each of the given pairs.

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. honest policy | sincere apology |
| Answer-sincere apology | |
| 2. speak fluent English | speak easy English |
| Answer - speak fluent English | |
| 3. complete a promise | fulfill a promise |
| Answer - fulfill a promise | |
| 4. preside a meeting | chair a meeting |
| Answer - chair a meeting | |
| 5. do a mistake | make a mistake |
| Answer - make a mistake | |
| 6. play a part | do a part |
| Answer - play a part | |
| 7. have a conversation | make a conversation |
| Answer - have a conversation | |
| 8. have a conversation with | make a conversation with |

D. The sentences below contain errors of different kinds. Re-write each sentence correctly.

1. She said me that she likes maths.

Answer: She said to me that she likes maths

2. She does not listen me.

Answer: She does not listen to me.

3. Tell to me why you are late.

Answer: Tell me why you are late.

4. My cell phone was under the sofa which rang all night long.

Answer: My cell phone was under the sofa which rang all night/ My cell phone was under the sofa which rang though out the night.

5. Working in the lab for hours , my feet began to hurt.

Answer: Working in the lab for hours together, my feet began to hurt/ Working in the lab for many hours, my feet began to hurt.

6. I am telling my students all the time not to talk.

Answer: I tell my students not to talk all the time/ I tell my students not to make noise.

7. Hydrogen is known for it's properties of being the colourless, odourless and tasteless.

Answer: Hydrogen is known for its properties of being colourless, odourless and tasteless.

8. Please explain me this problem.

Answer: Please explain this problem to me.

E. Complete the following sentences by choosing the correct option.

1. Subroto and his mother collected twigs and _____ a fence.

- a) build b) built c) was building

Answer: b) built

2. Subroto's mother _____ cataract in her eyes when he was still quite young.

- a) was developing b) has developed c) developed

Answer: c) developed

3. She did not _____ for the test last month.

- a) sat b) sit c) keep sitting

Answer: b) sit

4. She would have succeeded if she _____ harder.

- a) had tried b) have tried c) tried

Answer: a) had tried

5. Although she _____, she was not disheartened.



a) failed b) has failed c) was failing

Answer: a) failed

6. Jobin _____ not have a car. He takes the bus to work.

a) do b) did c) does

Answer: c) does

F. Re-write the following dialogue by correcting the errors in it.

Abida: This dish is lovely! whats in it?

Sanaz: I don't know really. The father made it. But I do know that it's the very simple dish.

Abida: I guess there's a sugar, may be the dash of lemon juice, and vanilla essence.

Sanaz: I did see him adding an small cup of honey too.

Abida: You must ask him about ingredients.

Sanaz: Sure. I will be asking him and giving to you a recipe.

Answer:

Abida: This dish is delicious! What are the ingredients?

Sanaz: I don't know. My father made it. But I do know that it's a simple dish.

Abida: I guess there's sugar, dash of lemon juice, and vanilla essence.

Sanaz: I did see him adding a small cup of honey too.

Abida: You must ask him about the recipe.

Sanaz: Sure. I will ask him and give you the recipe.

