Indian English is a distinct variety of the English language spoken and written in India. Its development began with the establishment of English as the language of public instruction in the 1830s during British colonial rule. After India gained independence in 1947, English retained its status as an official language alongside Hindi, and it is now widely used in government, business, education, and media. English serves as a vital lingua franca, bridging communication between the many linguistic groups within the country.

Linguistic Features

Indian English has developed unique characteristics in its pronunciation, vocabulary, and grammar due to its long-term contact with native Indian languages.

- **Pronunciation:** One common feature is a distinct accent, often referred to as a **"rhotic"** accent, where the "r" sound is pronounced at the end of words (e.g., in "car"). It also often replaces the "th" sounds with a "t" or "d," and sometimes does not distinguish between "v" and "w."
- **Vocabulary:** Indian English has adopted numerous words directly from Indian languages, such as **"jungle," "bungalow," "pyjama,"** and **"shampoo,"** which have now become part of global English. It has also created its own unique phrases, such as **"out of station"** (meaning out of town) and **"a Himalayan blunder"** (a grave mistake).
- **Grammar:** Grammatical differences are also present. These can include the use of continuous tenses with stative verbs (e.g., "I am liking it" instead of "I like it") and the use of redundant expressions like **"pass out"** to mean "graduate" or **"return back."**