



The power of English: Language, learning, and lifelong success

Unlocking global communication, academic excellence, and professional growth through mastery of English

SHREEPRAKASH SHARMA

English is spoken as lingua franca among the people of many countries across the world. It has proved its credential as the premier language of a host of professional domains i.e. science, navigation, medical and law. With over 2 billion speakers of English, its knowledge refines the personality and reassures success in various competitive examinations.

Choose the closest meaning of the words given in the capital letters -

- 1. POLEMIC**
(A) argument (B) diligence (C) reality
- 2. POLYANDRY**
(A) distribution (B) ceremony (C) polygamy
- 3. PONTIFF**
(A) the pope (B) great (C) angry
- 4. PORCINE**
(A) looking like a pig (B) of large size (C) ambitious
- 5. PORTLY**
(A) weak (B) stout (C) intelligent
- 6. IMPUGN**
(A) to consider (B) to contradict (C) to argue
- 7. INCISE**
(A) to arrive (B) to engrave (C) to enable
- 8. INCOGNITO**
(A) pseudonym (B) supreme (C) custodian
- 9. EMBODY**
(A) to eliminate (B) to incorporate (C) to disagree
- 10. INDICT**
(A) to incriminate (B) to abandon (C) to polarize

Answers: 1.A 2.C 3.A 4.A 5.B 6.B 7.B 8.A 9.B 10.A

Let us brush up on these idioms

A sacred cow – a belief,

opinion or custom which the people do not criticize or question or do anything to reform it, anything which is immune from the criticism or opposition (The caste-based reservation policy has turned out to be a sacred cow of the Indian polity. This poverty elimination programme has become a sacred cow.)

Cradle snatching / robbing the cradle – it is used to denote the situation in which someone has a sexual relationship with a person who is much younger than them. (The lady professor got involved in the affairs with her most intelligent student which was obviously the case of cradle snatching. The actress was notorious for the cradle snatching in the film industry.)

A blind alley – a mistaken course or direction which leads to nowhere. (The profession of teaching, a reputedly prestigious career choice around two to three decades ago, has now become a blind alley.)

To upset the applecart – to do something which brings destruction or causes trouble. (The opposition parties have upset the applecart by the nationwide protests against the government's corrupt practices.)

Let us know the use of the prepositions

To abide by – to obey or accept a rule or agreement (The citizens must abide by the constitution of the country. You must abide by the judge's decisions.



The players must abide by the referee's decisions.)

To accede to a request – to agree to a request or demand, to give consent to a request, to start a new job (The central government finally acceded to the demands of the agitating farmers. She acceded to the throne and brought about a lot of reforms for the welfare of the people.)

To come by – to acquire something (Good marks in the UPSC examination is very difficult to come by.)

To convict a person of a crime – to decide in a law court that someone is guilty of a crime (The jury convicted them of the fraud and robbery. Have you ever been convicted of a crime? She

was convicted of murder in the Supreme Court.)

To dissent from an opinion – to differ in opinion (A few of judges dissented from the majority opinion. The opposition party dissented from the government's proposal to impose additional tax burden on the salaried class.)

To exonerate a person from blame – to state that someone is not guilty of a crime or something (The court exonerated the police officer from the murder charges.)

Word of the week

Estrange – verb, to arouse enmity or indifference, to cause someone to be no longer on friendly terms, to alienate (She became estranged from her husband

English is widely spoken across the world, serving as a common link between people from diverse cultures and professions. With over 2 billion speakers, it plays a vital role in areas such as science, law, medicine, and navigation. Learning English not only enhances communication but also helps in building confidence, refining personality, and improving performance in competitive exams. Understanding vocabulary, idioms, and grammar equips learners with practical tools to express themselves effectively. By embracing English, individuals gain access to global opportunities, expand their intellectual horizons, and develop the skills needed to succeed in both academic and professional settings

soon after her marriage.

A misunderstanding estranged the two old friends of the childhood.)

(The author is Principal, PM Shri School Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Garhbanaili, Bihar)

TECH-TALK

Google Search's AI Mode now available in Hindi

HANS NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI

With Artificial Intelligence (AI) transforming how Google Search is being used, the tech giant announced the launch of its AI mode in Hindi for users across the globe.

The update, which uses a custom version of Gemini 2.5, enables users to ask longer, more complex, or nuanced questions in Hindi and receive more helpful and personalised answers. "We recently launched it in English in India and have received great feedback on its ability to handle complex queries. We're thrilled to take the next step: starting today, we're rolling out AI Mode in Hindi for users around the world," the company said in a blogpost.

The AI mode is designed to answer questions that would normally require multiple searches to find an answer. It is designed to be multimodal, and the feature allows users to ask questions using text, voice, or images.

"AI is transforming Search to make it more useful and easier than ever to ask Google anything. We're excited to bring AI mode to Hindi and look forward to seeing how people use it," said



Hema Budhraj, VP of Product Management, Search.

"Making Search a great experience for people around the world is about more than just translating. It requires a deep understanding of local knowledge and context, and Gemini 2.5's advanced multimodal and reasoning capabilities help us understand language better," she added. AI mode is also able to understand complex user queries with its capabilities. It can understand the nuances and complexities of requests, such as gardening, aromatic, night-blooming flowers, and special atmospheres, and provide tailored suggestions for home gardening. The launch will provide users with a better search experience, easier access to information, and a more accessible way to explore information in their preferred languages, the company said.

TODAY IS NATIONAL ENGINEERS DAY

ENGINEERING COURSES AND PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS

For students passionate about engineering and eager to make an impact in cutting-edge industries, selecting the right course can shape their career path and future opportunities. Below are some of the top engineering programs and specializations that combine innovation, practical experience, and industry relevance. These courses equip students with the technical knowledge, problem-solving skills, and hands-on experience needed to excel in a rapidly evolving global landscape.

1. Aerospace Engineering

Aerospace Engineering remains one of the most exciting and high-tech fields in engineering. It focuses on the science and technology of aircraft and spacecraft design, propulsion systems, aerodynamics, and navigation systems. Students gain expertise in flight mechanics, materials for extreme environments, and space exploration technologies. Graduates are prepared for careers in commercial aviation, defence, and the emerging space economy, including satellite technology and space tourism.

2. Biomedical Engineering

Biomedical Engineering is a transformative discipline at the intersection of healthcare



and technology. The program integrates biology, mechanics, and electronics to create life-saving devices and innovative healthcare solutions. Students study areas such as medical imaging, prosthetics, wearable health devices, and regenerative medicine. With growing demand for advanced medical solutions, graduates find opportunities in healthcare technology, biotechnology research, and medical device manufacturing.

3. Civil Engineering

Civil Engineering continues to be a cornerstone of infrastructure development, urban planning, and sustainable construction. Programs cover structural analysis, transportation systems, water resource management, and environmental protection. Students learn to design resilient bridges, roads, tunnels, and smart city infrastructure. Civil en-

gineers are critical in ensuring safe, efficient, and eco-friendly urban environments, especially with the increasing focus on climate change and sustainable development.

4. Chemical Engineering

Chemical Engineering applies principles from chemistry, physics, and mathematics to develop solutions for industries such as energy, pharmaceuticals, food processing, and environmental management. The curriculum emphasizes process engineering, materials science, and chemical reaction engineering. Students are trained to optimize industrial processes, innovate in product development, and address environmental challenges, making them highly sought after in sectors like renewable energy, petrochemicals, and advanced materials.

5. Electrical Engineering

Electrical Engineering un-

derpins modern technological advancements across power, communications, and electronics industries. Students explore topics such as circuit design, digital systems, control engineering, and renewable energy technologies. With global demand for energy efficiency, smart grids, and communication systems, graduates are equipped to work in sectors including electric vehicles, IoT devices, robotics, and telecommunication networks.

6. Computer Engineering

Computer Engineering combines elements of electrical engineering and computer science to create innovative computing solutions. Students delve into microprocessor design, embedded systems, cybersecurity, and artificial intelligence. The program prepares graduates for roles in software development, hardware engineering, machine learning, and network security. With technology becoming central to all industries, this field offers diverse opportunities in tech startups, data-driven enterprises, and research institutions.

7. Environmental Engineering

Environmental Engineering focuses on developing sustainable solutions to address pressing global chal-

lenges such as pollution, waste management, and water conservation. The program teaches students to design systems for air and water treatment, renewable energy, and ecosystem restoration. Graduates are increasingly in demand as governments and industries work toward achieving sustainability goals and mitigating climate change.

8. Robotics and Automation Engineering

Robotics and Automation is a fast-growing field that blends mechanical, electrical, and software engineering to create intelligent systems and automated solutions. Students learn about robotics design, artificial intelligence, sensor integration, and machine learning. Careers in this field span from industrial automation to healthcare robots and smart manufacturing, reflecting the rising trend of AI-driven technologies. These engineering programs offer a pathway to impactful, high-growth careers in technology, infrastructure, healthcare, and sustainability. Choosing a specialization aligned with personal interests and industry trends ensures that students remain at the forefront of innovation and are equipped to tackle the world's most complex challenges.

Today is National Online Learning Day

Online learning: Empowering education anytime, anywhere

Online learning has transformed the way we approach education, offering an incredible array of options to suit every interest, goal, and schedule. Whether it's taking a course to fulfill graduate requirements, attending an online seminar to sharpen career-related skills, or enrolling children in a virtual school program to learn from the comfort of home, the opportunities available today are limitless. The flexibility, accessibility, and variety that online learning provides have opened doors for learners across the globe.

One of the greatest benefits of online education is its convenience. Students no longer have to be confined to traditional classrooms or adhere to strict schedules. They can access course materials, recorded lectures, and interactive discussions at their own pace, from any location with an internet connection. This is especially helpful for working professionals who wish to upskill while managing their careers, parents balancing family responsibilities, or students living in remote areas with limited access to educational institutions. Moreover, online learning accommodates diverse learning preferences. From video tutorials and podcasts to live webinars and virtual labs, learners can choose methods that resonate with their individual styles. Interactive forums and group projects also provide opportunities to collaborate, ask questions, and



receive feedback, enriching the learning experience.

For career advancement, online courses offer targeted training in specialized fields. Whether it's mastering data analytics, improving writing skills, or gaining certification in cybersecurity, learners can focus on topics that directly impact their professional growth. Many courses also provide accreditation, adding value to resumes and opening doors to new job opportunities. In addition to professional development, online learning supports personal growth and hobbies. From cooking classes and photography workshops to language learning and creative writing sessions, individuals can explore their passions without the pressure of exams or rigid timelines. These courses not only boost creativity and mental well-being but also foster lifelong learning habits.

For children, online education has been a game-changer, especially during times when attending school in person is not feasible. Virtual classrooms offer structured curriculums, interactive activities, and one-on-one support,

helping students stay engaged and motivated. Parents, too, can monitor their child's progress more easily, making learning a collaborative family experience. However, despite its many advantages, online learning requires discipline and time management. Without a structured environment, some students may struggle to stay focused or motivated. Additionally, the lack of face-to-face interaction may pose challenges for those who thrive in social learning environments. To overcome these hurdles, learners must set clear goals, maintain consistent schedules, and seek support from peers or instructors when needed.

In conclusion, online learning has revolutionized education by breaking down barriers of time, geography, and access. Whether pursuing academic qualifications, career development, or personal interests, learners today have the tools and resources to shape their educational journey. With endless choices and flexible learning paths, the world of online education empowers individuals to learn, grow, and succeed on their own terms.