

*Lexel, Cuckoo
and
other Grammar
poems.*

Grammar Series Part – 3

A COLLECTION OF LIGHT HEARTED POEMS ON
ENGLISH GRAMMAR

M.D.Swapna

MARCH 2025

*Lexel, cuckoo and other grammar
poems.*

Grammar Series Part - 3

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ENGLISH GRAMMAR

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PREFACE

This is part 3 of our grammar poems. Parts 1 and 2 were, hopefully; useful for new learners. And also light [=fun] reading for the experts. This booklet is meant for the latter. In this book we raise questions; offer newly coined words; stand by strong opinions; in short try to be of some nuisance value to hard core linguists and grammarians. **Hence mature readers may please warn rank beginners lest they get confused.**

One example is on the use of the article 'the'. This author could not claim the cosy comfort of being a native speaker of the language nor that of scholarship [may I say scholarliness, since the other word for beginners is a paltry sum of money towards school fees] ' both may have the experience of guiding the learners of English as a second [or nth] language. English has become an essential part of existence for most of us. A version of English easier and more rational will help all of us. Thus we bat for making the language friendly for anyone, green-horn or not.

Verse either funny or explanatory is our way of contributing towards this cause.

Professrs1 PLEASE SEE several apology pages at the end of the book.

The title of the booklet draws attention to some adventures by the author. LEXEL is the alternate word for PALINDROME. In our opinion this new word is self explanatory. The same is true of the other coinage viz.

CUCKOO words in place of onomatope words. Hence the title ***lexel, cuckoo and other grammar poems.***

. We surely anticipate some mild or quite caustic comments from a serious reader. They will be very valuable to us. Please see copyright page for contact emails.

Thanks to lack of drawing skills we have freely downloaded [stolen!] from www [internet] only from images not marked 'licensable'

M.D.Swapna [pen name]
Mysuru. September 2024

[To help beginners,

Homonym – Same spelling and pronunciation different meaning.

Homophone - Same pronunciation different meaning.

Homograph - Same spelling and different meaning.

Synonym – Word having similar or almost same meaning.

Antonym – word opposite in meaning.

Nymph – an Angel] ☺

For suggestions

engoneforall@gmail.com

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LE O1 HOSPITAL

[caring, healing, pampering and pleasing are compared]

Medical terms are strange
pre-natal, neo-natal and post-natal
and there is no just 'natal'
Pediatric and geriatric
doctors are specialists
the normal ones the GPs
have none, not even mediatic.

Beds and rooms are there
but, no boarders or lodgers.
Wards are there but
not even foster parents.
Theatres are there
but the drama is always outside.

Hospital is not the same
as hospitality.
They both take your money,
but hospital gives care and attention.
Until you are well, THEY have tension.

Are hoteliers your well wishers?'
Now you think;
Hospitality starts with a drink.
Hospital staff get a pittance
for their skill and clinical precision.
Hospitality staff get a fortune
for their ties, talk and smiles.



LE O2 HOPEFUL WAITER. OFFICIAL WAYS OF AVOIDING

One word "wait" makes it clear
that some answer or hope is near;
If and when the person in command
will end my wait and consider my demand.

He is an officer and gentleman
even though until recently he was my son.
He did not say, "Sorry, I am busy".
He did not say, "Phone and come".
He did not say, "I will see you later"
He did not say, "Why come to my office"
He did not say, any such polite English
Which meant "get lost" with polish

I Wait and wait here
An affectionate hopeful waiter.



LE O3 BREAK (1)

[HOMONYM, HOMOGRAPH, HOMOPHONE]

Break rhymes with cake
In fact children make
a figure and then break
to give it new shape
a game of artistic remake.
This is how children play
with their POP or moulding clay.

[POP- *plaster of paris*]

BREAK (2)

Break is not spoken like beak or speak.
It is read as in cake or lake.
There is another having the same sound
but different letters.
It's BRAKE, as in your bicycle.
[HOMOPHONES].

BREAK (3)

Break and brake
both rhyme with take.
Take a break is to rest
having worked to your best
Apply the brake is to stop
something happening not desirable
(some action, slowly not stop)

Breaking a thing is to destroy, shatter
Breaking by itself is a brittle matter
Breaking by people is no mean task
Break a boulder to make gravel to walk
Breaking by zealots is also no mean task
like breaking a temple to build a mosque.

By the driver of positive action
Braking is to control something in motion
Fully stop or reduce its acceleration
Braking is a causative action

With moving machines came the break
(brake) to help the users to control
or for the vehicle's own sake.

BREAK (4)

Befriending a bottle full of brew
is the beginning of a bad habit
The story goes on from apes, not new
Beastly bottle has broken many a family unit.

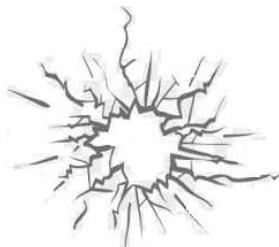
Listen to guruji's advice;
"Drinking is not habit; it is vice.
It is a sin of one man ruining a family
Leave the habit and live happily".

Listen to me:
Brake the habit; break the bottle
No one needs it; Hey! Say "I got it"

BREAK (5)

Unless the situation is grave
like someone's life to save
do not apply sudden brake
By the jolt, bones may break.

Apply the brake slowly in downtown
Decelerate, retard, slow down
on seeing red or a signalling cop
come to a halt, totally stop.



LE O4 SO! SO so! so what!

[*A simple word 'so'*]

Any literary language is a devil
English seems to be the worst.

One word or short statements are evil
See the body language or go burst.

"I have a parker pen"

"So what! I have a good one"

"I have a jeans pant"

" So what? I will buy when I want."

"I have a full cricket set"

"So what! For my next birthday I will get"

Meaning of "so what" I could guess
It is easy. It is not a game of chess.

'SO' is not so easy or certain
Depends on the context and tone
Dictionary gives meanings umpteen
You should opt for the right one.

"My house crashed down in the rain"
"so bad!"
"Dozen families suffered, we are one"
"so many!"
We lost valuables and one lakh cash"
"So much!"
"I need help" "SO"

By the last "So" what was meant?
I guess, from the others, different.

Put 'sorry' in place of 'SO' above
Context and meaning are like hand and glove

"So" and "sorry" or "I won't" are not near
Here they are the same, it will appear.

WHAT? SO WHAT? NOW WHAT?



LE O5 INVARIANT

[Special class of non-regular verbs- only a few]

If I ever wrote a grammar book
Regular verbs will be look, cook.
Irregular will be take, make,
Would I dare any tradition to break?

Yes, I would, since it would
at least ease a tense mood
in the verbs' jungle. A small wood
will help the learner feel good.

[wood here a small groop or grove of trees]

From a list of about twenty
I see many ending in 't'
remain the same, in tenses three.

The following verbs, please conjugate
Please write down what you get.
Cost, cast, burst, hurt
Split, slit, hit
Shut, cut and put
Bet, set and let.

*For my intrusion, grammarians! Please forgive;
Invariant group is the name I would give
To this class of verbs which remain the same
Which so far remained without a special name.*

I add to this from my fat head
One more: read, read, read.
If you like, add 'spread'
and spread the word:

*[our list
Cost, cast, burst, hurt
Split, slit, hit
Shut, cut and put
Bet, set and let.
And read]*

From www

An invariant irregular verb is an irregular verb that follows a pattern that does not change. In English, these are all irregular lexical verbs:

" burst - burst -burst
" cost - cost - cost
" cut - cut - cut
" hit - hit - hit
" hurt - hurt - hurt
" let - let - let
" put - put - put
" quit - quit - quit
" set - set - set
" shut - shut - shut

Thanks to internet

*There is an invariant 'be' according to the same source .
In this author's opinion that should come under colloquial
or slang or localized usage*

LE O6 E (A) GO

[Author stands corrected]

Until some time ago
I used to call EGO as 'a go'
Since the time I saw OED
my pride is very much wounded

[OED- Oxford English dictionary].

Like I go, you go, and we go
I must tell my Self Pride 'ye go'.
I have to give a go
to my old term ago
and call it ego.

Not only to the word and letter;
your self respect will be better
if you give a go to the trait
which fosters ego, envy and arrogant mindset.

So says Guruji. Guruji further said
The essential ego which is still in
gives rise to a sense of we and a little I
that is good if you are willing
to dream big, plan and try

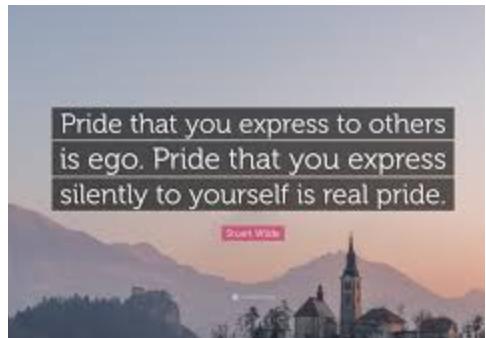
He also warned:

Mine and me misplaced
'I am the greatest' arrogance
have in history erased
many a man, of respect and elegance.

Mutual respect's mental origin
springs from seeing 'I' in others.

All the 'I's of the land can join in
to become a family of sisters and brothers.

I, You, We, He, She together
gives strength to any grief to get over.



LE 07 CHAIR

[Great! No gender difference]

Chair is the new word for a professor
Chairman was its predecessor
Equal status to be fair
Neutral post is CHAIR
which he or she carries everywhere
a title , an honour goes with him or her.

Do you know a famous person
Who carries a chair on his head ?
He s not a help in a furniture shop
Nor a pandal or shamiana handy man.
Please welcome professor so-and-so
Chair and head of so-and-so department

[There are many words which have become gender neutral [i.e same for man or woman] seen in the lifetime of the author

Actor- both for actress
H.M - headmaster , headmistress . now head-teacher
Author, poet -also for women
Hero, villain - also for women
Police officer - instead of policeman only
Mankind ' humankind





LE 08 STIR

Stir, whisk why not churn?

TO stir is to churn or agitate
An agitator is an object of hate
A stirrer is a tool, one of many
In a chemistry lab or chocolate factory.
To whisk is stirring in a special way.
It can separate butter and whey
A whisk is tool, a whisker is not
It's the hairy part on the face of a cat.



LE 09 CONVERTERS

Engineers' confusion

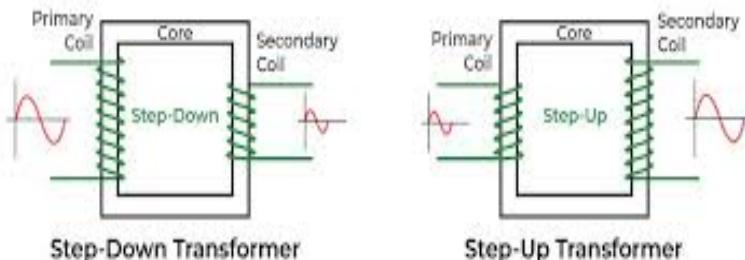
Engineers are weak in grammar
So for them a converter is not a transformer
Another term inverter is much worse
No top or bottom, yet it inverts.

Convert is to change into or transform
Converter sounds like a machine
But no such thing exists; engineers
more used to cogs, wheels and gears
were charmed by electricity.
So they lost their sanity.

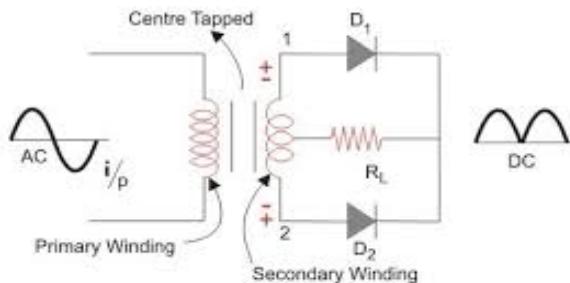
Pious and zealous priests had no such
qualm, logical or scientific touch
For them it was a duty and service
to God and can be done by any device.

A person with smooth talk
and a bible inside his frock
is neither a convert nor a converter
He is one in the service of God , a preacher.
Liberation from barbarism
is better than conversion ,

Types of Transformer



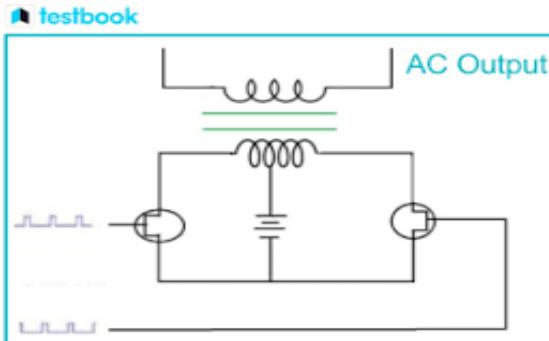
AC TO AC



Centre Tapped Full Wave Rectifier

Figure - 1

AC TO DC



DC TO AC

LE 1 A PAT GOES AROUND

Encourage, appreciate- you do not lose- receiver gains

A pat travels
Not the one in a loop such as
 U pat my back I pat yours
Stays between the duo this may lead to
Care, friendship affection and even love

But most often it is temporary
But they are better than flattery
Which disappears as soon as the lottery
 gains are got and used

True respect to talent truly
May urge you to pat lightly
 The back of the achiever

Be it a he or she , young or old
Kin known or new stranger.

I say alternative words
Appreciate praise comment suggest
These show your care for the content
 And not for the author or doer

Such a pat travels
The patted feels fine
And feels like patting *another*
 The chain hopefully grows

And around the world goes.
When the pat comes back to me
From a totally unknown source

I wonder: Is this a tiny
gesture I made long ago
grown gigantic
Not frightening but majestic?

Pat came the reply
From the first one
whom I touched gently
I don't remember when

She said:

Your touching gesture
Is worth much more
It made a common idler
into an artiste and achiever
And above all a human
Caring for other men or women.



LE 2 A TAP IS A GENTLE TOUCH

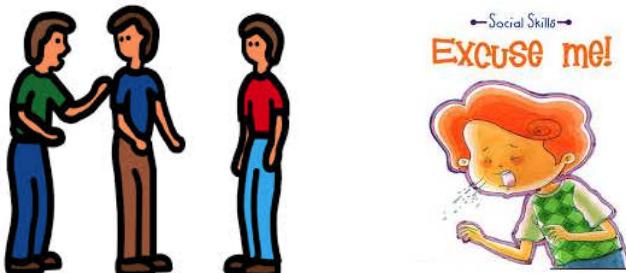
Good manners are good everywhere

A tap is a gentle touch
it does not mean much
Just draws your attention
To a small item at this junction

Instead of saying "Excuse me
I want to pass let me."
A tap on the shoulder is fine
Anywhere else is obscene

The tapped may say thanQ
Or just take the given cue
It is to a person you do not know
A tap is gentle never a blow

No words needed; sign will do
or simply say why you tapped
To utter words to draw attention
I need politeness and perfection.



LE 3 SOUND AND SCRIPT

**[A new word coined by the author-
onamatopic is a hard big word- this author gives a name
- CUCKOO WORDS]**

LANGUAGE CAN BE FRUSTRATING

Onamatopic word sounds
Bombastic and scholastic
But in fact it is a mimic
It is nothing but
Calling a spade a spade
Or calling a cuckoo
By its call -cuc-koo, cuc-koo.

Some south Indian tongues

Use, not lips or teeth, but lungs
To mimic the bird's or animal's voice
Create a word, a similar sounding noise.

A black bird can be a kaa-kaa
Making a clarion kaav, kaav.
A domestic animal can be may- kay
By the sound made by the herd, may- me.

The taxonomist comes to tax the brain
The etymologist soon enters the train
of linguists, rhymesters and the sterner
grammarians to pester the poor learner.

If old McDonald had a farm
In a different part of the earth

Sounds will vary from the nursery norm
A baa-baa here , a me-me there ,
Adding mayhem to the mirth.

Beauty lies
In the eyes
Of the beholder.
Melody probes
the ear lobes
Of the listener.

Dogs bark in Canberra or in Canada
The same yap in Kolar and in Kannada
Both May mean "thanks for the bun"
But look different when written down.

Nature in literature
coalesces with culture
A hill may be timber for one
and for another a metal mine.
For ants, animals and other
hill dwellers , it is a shrine.
Call a spade a spade
Call a cuckoo , cuc-koo





CUCKOOS OF INDIA



LE 4 BY THE TIME- GRAMMAR PATTERN SENTENCES

By the time I decided which bogie to get in,
the train had moved
and I was left behind.

By the time the hair-dresser decided on his tools

Some heads had become grey,
Some others bald,
and one other with his long matted crown
and beard
looked like our old rishis and munis.

By the time the coffee was being brewed,
some drank water and left,
some opted for soft drinks,
some went out in search of coconut water,
some just waited until coffee was ready
and finally asked for tea.

By the time she made any food ,
some ate off the somph on the table ,
some ate the rice raw ,
some raided the pickle jar
and others simply retired to bed.

[somph – an after-food mouth freshener]

By the time she decided to marry or not
one married her cousin,
one became a grandfather,
one had already kicked the bucket,
and the one who waited and waited
became so hard of hearing that
he could not hear her decision any more.

. By the time he decided which girl to
propose to,
one became his sister-in-law,
one was looking for a suitable boy for her
sister,
one came for a good teacher for her
daughter,
and the one who waited and waited
is searching for a good old-age home.

[note; if stanza 1 appears to be a Hindi or Urdu proverb
or saying -
Yes, the whole poem is inspired by it]





Le 5 LEARN 'WITH' ME

[See the context – guess the meaning]

See the person there
with (1) binoculars and shoulder bag,
He is the bird watcher, Ali.

Could you on the yonder tree
see the tiny bird at the top?
See with(2) my binoculars
and you can see it sit or hop.

Sonu likes to go with(3) uncle
anywhere trekking or on cycle.
She gets information
along with(4) fun.

[Note: 'with' has many meanings.

- (1) Having, carrying.
- (2) Using, as a tool.
- (3) Company, together
- (4) And, also.]





LE 6 TITLE

One example homonym

Title is the Top line
Also called heading
Title can be that of
A book, or poem or essay.

But a person's title is different;
It is an honour conferred
On, him by others, equally eminent

Some poems can be untitled
Since the author just unloaded
Thoughts neither logical nor settled

Sir and madam are not titles
They are respectable ways
the students address their teachers
Sir. C.V. Raman is title.
So are Lord, Earl, Vidwan, Ustad etc,

Title sometimes is flaunted by the holder
to impress fanatic fans or any beholder.

Many use the neta's title to con.
foolish fans, by flattering their icon.

Yes madam, thank you madam
Yes sir, thank you sir,
Pupils use and they will be
Polite people in their company

[A TITTLE is very different. It is the small dot on the i.]

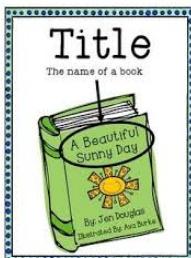
SIR MEANING

Sir is also used as a formal prefix (i.e. before the give name) of a knight or a baronet according to the British honours system, that still exists in the United Kingdom. (for example, Sir David Attenborough, Sir Anthony Hopkins)

<https://www.boomlive.in/does-sir-really-stand-for-slave-i-remain-a-factcheck/>

Not SLAVE I REMAIN

As some misguided persons have uploaded in the internet.



5minutenglish.blogspot.com

PERSONAL TITLES:

Mr.	→ man
Miss	→ unmarried woman
Mrs.	→ married woman
Ms.	→ when we don't know if a woman is married or not






Mr. El-Sayed Kamadan

A Really Short Poem With Quite A Long Title

One of these days I might write a poem
That is longer than just a few lines,
But today I really must be going
As I seem to have run out of time.

Bron Kozakiewicz

LE 7 WEIGHT, HEIGHT

[Children like medical check-up]

WEIGHT IS VERY SIMPLE TO WRITE.

It says something is heavy or light

Add 'w' to eight, you get weight, right.

True, so easy, read it as wait ,bait,

A heartfelt gift is highly valuable

It is worth its weight in gold

On a holiday, at Udupi hotel, to get table
we had to wait for an hour, and got bored.

Doctor and nurse came to our school
a tape and a weighing machine were the tools;
with which they measure
our height, weight and chest
no class that day, such a pleasure.
Health check-up is the best.

Weight to write is easy, height is not so

Eat like a pig , sleep like a log, become a fat- so
Height as read, rhymes with white and light
Becoming taller, if at all, can only be slight.

Given by God is my height;
also my colour, dark or brown,
My mom can control my weight
Me too by work-cut on my own.

[as spoken by a *child*].



LE 8 SIGHT

[Inner sight helps]]

What you see, you remember
What you don't, you won't.
Out of sight, out of mind
One forgets even the name of a friend.
[proverb]

Ability to see is sight
A place to build a house is site
To quote someone book is cite
All the three sound like light.
The site of the Taj Mahal is Agra
Cite a dictionary. Jasmine is mogra
. A blind person had lost his sight.
Far sight is for the future planning right.



I took to inspect a bore well site.
a blind friend who has no sight
I asked "what do you see?"
He said, "Nothing visible to me,
But I could guess and feel
with my studded stick and heel
Only hard rock and rubble under
Buying this for boring will be a blunder

I said:

- ." "I was about to walk into it with open eyes,
Thank you my friend for sound advice".

LE 9 FINE

Another polyuse word [homonym]

Fine is a word cherished
by lawyers, judges, admins,
They love to see those punished
who can be called society's vermins.
[admin- short form for the sake of rhyme]

Fine for the police constable is a boon.
It can be dodged by an erring goon
Less money in lieu of fine is the perk.
for the khakhis or the lowly clerk.
[khakhi- the police]

Fine for late coming or absence
Fine for low marks or nuisance
Fine by the name of late fees
In schools and colleges, it is a disease.

Fine is a noun, monetary punishment.
Fine as adjective is embellishment.
Fine as a verb is only passive.
One word, many uses, what a hassle!

FINE (2)

A well known college in Madras
erected a building of high class,
'A FINE BUILDING' everyone said
built out of students' fines paid.
The pun was lost on the top brass.

LE 10 CREEPERS

[Another omnirich polyuse word]

Creepers are plants, they climb or spread.

Commonly green but sometimes red.

Creepers can climb a wall.

No matter if the wall is tall.

Creepers climb a support

perhaps a nearby tree

or poles planted by purport

by humans, for profit or beauty.

Pumpkin is planted by the rustic
folk to go up the thatched roof

Yellow or red flowers look majestic.

The tasty fruits that follow, is the proof.

Betel leaves around the slender
areca tree as the mentor;

Up the grill, the long, tender
snake gourd with a stone tied under.

Creepers and plants are pals
Rose, Jasmine, Cucumber et. al.
and money plants spread in the house
while true money maker, grapes,
is quiet like a mouse.

Not only plants, but animals too
creep, crawl, slither or grovel
Go to the reptile section of the Zoo.
Don't be afraid, look at them well.

CREEPER [2]

In humans too, there are creeps
despicably greedy, cheat and cheap

Ready to fall at the feet of a felon
for favours not worth the price of a lemon

A groveller is not a gent, he is a creep.
He is green with envy, but not a creeper.

The dishonest fellow is a cheat.

Grammar does not like a cheater.

There are climbers among good men too.
Those who climb poles to repair or rescue.
The glory of having reached a mountain peak.
those adventure chaps who seek.

These are part of honest ascent.
Hard work, honour, hundred percent.

But then there are social climbers
or one's own career-advancing creeps
or in politics, in increasing numbers
while the honest voter soundly sleeps.



LE 11 CREEPER (3)

Between vine-yard and wine.

There is a juicy tale.

Spread by oral grapevine
now common in hill and dale.

The grape-vine with a 'V'
is a simple plant, you see.

The same in crude rustic use
is a medium for gossip and abuse.

Grapevine is always hearsay.

The source does not care
to show itself; the news may
or may not be true or fair.

LE 12 CREEPERS (4)

Grapes grow on a creeper called vine
with a 'V'

The fruits are sweeter and cheaper than wine
with a 'W'

Vineyard is the field
where grapes are grown;

The crop whose bunches yield,
fruits yellow, green, black or brown.

Go to the processing plant'
Fermented, distilled, emerges as wine
with or without a name or brand
fresh or aged, sots don't complain.

Place of origin and the maker
are crucial for the connoisseur;
Unlike wisdom, wine is saleable
Like wisdom, age makes it more valuable.

Beginning is 'V' is the vine
and also vineyard with grapes
'W' pushes out 'V' to make wine
What a difference spelling makes!



LE 13 LAST, LOST(1)

[Homographs, homophones, confusing word fine is not fine for many]

In any language, a word
is written, read and heard.
Meaning is given by its use
to inform, praise or abuse.

'LAST' reminds one of the past.
When did you hear this word last?
Where were you this time last year?
This warning is the last, am I clear?

'LOST' for the listener sounds the same
As the 'LAST'; homophone is the name.
Do you know the meaning of one? Yes.
The other is nowhere near. Can't even guess.

. What one has, one may lose.
A thing lost is missing, no matter whose;
 Lost in the wood
 was Red Riding Hood.
 Lost in thought, I had loosened my hold.
 Lost in the crowd was my tiny toddler child.

[last [adj.] [adv.] - the final one in a long line , like nth person - last page of a book - last line of a poem [add the to be correct]

Also - just previous to this one- last year , last month - opposite of next]

Lost [v.] [also used as adj.v] lose, lost, lost

LE 14 NOT TOLD[1]

[many (uncountable) nouns do not have plurals]

Your teacher told you
Nouns have gender
Masculine and feminine.
Some inform, all don't,
That there is a main one: neuter.

Sanskrit, Hindi and others in India
[perhaps from Europe and Asia]
Gender for a noun is an attribute
necessary; but I think it's no tribute;

.Even inanimates like water and air
And abstract feelings like love and care
Will be called a he or she
Easy for native speakers, not me.

But not in English.
Only humans will be a he or she
Unless he/she is a child or baby.
All the others will be only it
Unless it is a ship or a pet.

NOT TOLD (2)

Your teacher told you
Nouns have number, singular or plural.
True, but not total information.
All nouns do not have two

only one singular but do not need

'a', 'an' or any numerical adjective.
 Not all teachers give ALL information.
 Thinking is only one. It is an action.
 Thoughts can be many.

One idly. Many idlies
 One cake. Many cakes.

Give Munna one more idli and sambar too.
 How many sambars? Buddu (=idiot)
 Sambar give some or a few spoonfuls.
 If he wants more give a few more spoons.
 If he demands lot more, tell me.

Many nouns are non-countable.
 Never heard of 'a water', 'an air'.

NOUNS					
COUNTABLE tangible goods			UNCOUNTABLE intangible or abstract ideas		
					
dogs	bottles	cats	milk	watermelon	tea



Countable Nouns	Uncountable Nouns
 Key  Bird  Eye	 Sand  Blood  Sugar
 Hat  House  Chair	 Coffee  Flour  Milk

LE 15 AVOID VOID

[Pun on the word 'void']

. Void is a gap, space
where you expect
something in place.

It is really a riddle
how, missing in the middle,
got a name for itself

Gap in the beginning is a non-starter
In the end it is incomplete or shorter
Anywhere in between needs attention
A void is to be filled, no need to mention.

Void in manufactured material is despair;
leads to rejection or needs immediate repair.
Testing for void is true art
though science played a principal part.

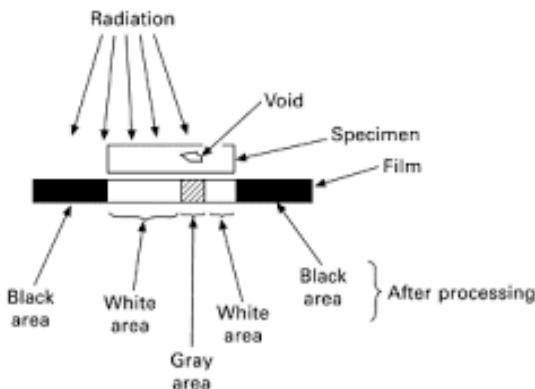
Testing finds out, it is there
and also precisely where.

Seeing a report of a void

the overseer gets annoyed
with a decisive and firm voice

"AVOID any void"

he tells
the production boys



LE 16 LETTER

[Pun on the word 'letter']

Write a letter
the teacher told
None can do better
than me; just behold.

The letter I wrote, look
in my unlined notebook;
the fine capital letter D.
D for doctor, I want to be.

"Stop writing now;
one by one show
(Dinesh! Or Dennis!),
What have you done?

No para, no sentence, not one"

"Write a letter, you said,
Sir, I wrote one; I did.
D for Dev my favourite actor
D for what I will be, a doctor."

The teacher:

"D for donkey, D for dunce;
I wanted a letter to post, to mail;
Go back to KG class at once
In higher classes you will fail."

'Letter' for the alphabet

**Also for the postcard you get,
Same word for that and this;
Am I stupid, or English is?**

Write a letter to a friend

Address

City

Date

My Dear friend.

Hi, how are you? I am fine
here, how do you enjoyed your
holidays. Mine were good. I visited

LE 17 AANKHE (N) -EYES

[*Evil-eye Indian customs*]

Showing eyes is bad in India
Shows hatred or pure arrogance.

"Don't you have eyes?"
The offender is cut to size.
Could be chastised for callousness
or shown one's guilt and carelessness.

Eye witness is the best
In the eyes of the law
though what they testify
may be biased or full of flaw.

He had eyes only for her
And she just for him
Hope they stay this way together
Not fall for any fancy or whim.

Needle of sewing machine has an eye
And ear together, so its noise is high
Hand- sewing needle's eye is small
Oldies struggle to pass, the rich never at all.

[NOTE; IN THE last line there is an allusion to a biblical saying]

EYES [2]

A cute smiling little child
In mother's arms calm and mild
The moment I touch, screams wild

Could I have shaved my hirsute beard?
Mother takes kaajal from her eyes
Two large black dots on either cheek
(of the chubby child)
This is to protect from evil eyes
"Uncle, not for you, don't mistake"
[*kajal- mascara, part of eye kake up*]

She said.
A cosy duplex house, my friend
built with his retirement fund
Painted decorated, but look!
A demon hanging from a hook!

To my questioning eyes , he clarified
We're superstitious, don't be mollified
Young man! Are you a foreigner?

It is not made by an architect or designer.
Even admiring eyes may bring harm
I want my building to stand long.

Three red chillies and a lemon
Hanging from the number plate
of the lorry going ahead " Come on"
I said, "No RTO would ask for that!"
My driver said

There are demons causing accident
All along the highways sir!
This is to avoid their eyes and prevent
Any harm to our lorry or car.
[RTO- ROAD TRANSPORT OFFICER]

When all the guests have gone
The couple is made to stand
An elderly woman takes holy rice
Her hands go in a circle thrice
The rice is discarded
Evil eye, if any, is warded

I know ogling eyes are evil
How about an admiring glance?
Indians I know, never will,
(against any eyes) take a chance.
They purposely put a blemish
Such that any ' ankh' won't miss.

[note:

Aankh(en) - eye(s)- Hindi

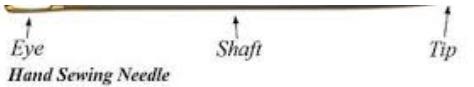
Kaajal - mascara- eye-lining or makeup - Hindi

Dhrishti - [evil] eye in this context - Sanskrit]

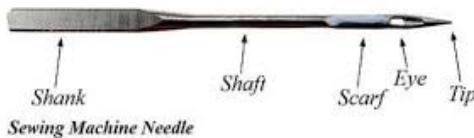


"The eye of a needle" is a portion of a quotation attributed to Jesus in the synoptic gospels:

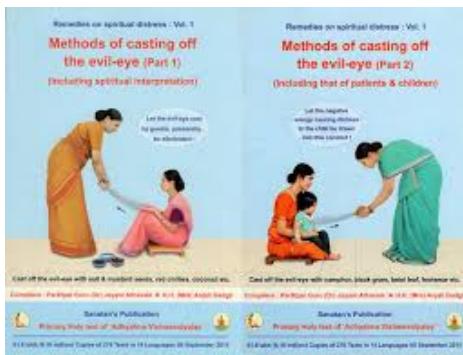
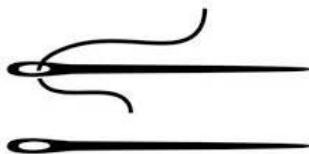
"I tell you the truth, it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished and asked, 'Who then can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.' [4]



<http://textilesensor.net>



Sewing Machine Needle



LE18 A GOOD DOUBT

Good as a word is bad for a beginner

The word 'Good'
turned out to be bad for me.
Good cannot be goodly. But bad can.
Good grammarians know this well.
Neither good nor goodly.
Even badly-brought up Britishers
Who sleep well,
Behave well,
Live well,
Never know how to
Sleep good or goodly
Behave good or goodly
Live good or goodly.

Now that the English man has got out
it is free and freely use any adjective.

So, we can be good, sleep good,
Behave better and live the best of life.

[note;

Beginners be careful- this poem is for a joke

Always use well instead of goodly -

e.g. you sang well , congratulations . BUT your singing /
acting / speaking was good - also eat well sleep well]

LE19 ANTONYMS AMONG FRIENDS

10 pairs of words of opposite meaning

1. You are dirty; I'm clean
You are fat; I'm lean
2. You are tall; I'm short
Art is long; life is short.
3. You are bad; I'm good
You are soft; I'm loud
Cotton is soft; Iron is hard.
4. You are lazy; I'm active
You are lonely; I'm interactive.
5. Munni is young; Naani is old.
Why are you shy? You must be bold.
6. Your shirt is new; mine is old
Iran, the name is new; Persia is old.
Steam is hot; ice is cold.
7. You are foolish; I'm intelligent.
Never is zero; 'Always is cent per cent.
8. I'm happy; you are sad.
I'm sane; you are mad.
9. I'm awake; you are asleep
When I laugh you just weep.
10. I smile you cry
Towel is wet; sun makes it dry

LE 20 PHRASES

Idioms, phrases and similar things

Words, modals, phrases,
phrasal verbs and idioms.
The sheer variety amazes,
Learn all, lest we are called idiots.

COLLOCATION joins the collection
The oft-used word-combination.
"Usage is easy, no need of recollection
or thesaurus, the book of abomination.

Modals 'can' and 'will' help
any verb to change its mood
To request, permit, polish and pep
make the meaning better understood.

Prepositions like 'up' 'down', 'after'
make a somersault and come after
the action word; add nuances
to the verb and enhances
the meaning-

Grammarians call it PHRASAL VERB.

IDIOMS galore in proverbs
Sometimes come as phrasal verbs.
They always say more than we see
Rustic's language is grammar- free

[Many phrasal verbs contain prepositions after the main verb - this author calls them post-positions]



Collocations

Correct	Incorrect
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High temperature • Have an experience • Heavy rain 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tall temperature • Make an experience • Thick rain

20 COLLOCATIONS with GIVE



give it some thought	give away	give an example
give somebody a call	give birth	give a hand
give a speech	give notice	give an opinion
give an answer	give evidence	give priority
give information	give help	give a description
give the prize	give credit	give a performance

WELL, IT IS NOT
. MY FAULT
THOSE WORDS
DON'T SPELL
THE WAY
THEY SOUND



Le 21 SALOON

A shop-sign seen in all languages

Hotel, bakery, stores and the rest
long is the lexical list
of English words used as such
in other languages too, as much.

One word, many languages
the same image everywhere
my friend, the etymologist gauges
this may top the words used as they are.

'SALOON' tops the list
since it arouses an image
Nay, many and infinite images
with mirrors both in front and directly behind.

The barber, an artist with a pair
of scissors on one hand
and in the other your hair
The tool is his magic wand.

The shabby looking silly sot
can be transformed to look like a gent
the tantrum making tiny tot
can be quieted, trimmed and sent.

Unisex saloon is the new trend
double the usual money you spend
I didn't see anything unique
you got an item about which to speak.

Shaving oneself is a verb inflexive
Getting shaved is better but expensive.
Hence on the word 'shave' is a barb
made by a grammarian in barber's garb.

[Do you know someone who shaves umpteen times a day? I know the joke. It is the saloon worker]

If, in your own kitchen, you sweat
and declare proudly 'I cook myself'.

The joke is on you, I bet,
since 'cook' is from a different shelf.

A shaver can be, you at home
or the owner or the saloon worker
or the word just may mean some
machine which helps to do the job quicker.

A 'close shave' does not refer
to hair, beard or stubble.

It's an event not to repeat, you prefer
It reminds you that life is a bubble.

For cooks and chefs there is a school
Also for beauticians for ladies' trimming.
The saloon artist uses your head as a pool
to learn his art, like swimming.



LE 22 HAD I

Alternative for IF, many e,g,s

Had I ever had a true love
and that was lost somehow
I would know how to give relief
to the young one full of grief.

Had I ever taken care
of aged seniors in their senile state
I would be able to share
the plight of persons
who feed me from my plate.

Had I ever suffered from acute hunger
and brats demanding pizza or hamburger
I would know what or whom to feed
and to separate silly likes and real need.

If I had lain with a plastered leg
and for simple movements, others to beg,
I would never blame or cast aspersion
on the objects and survivors of oppression.

If I had ever failed an English test
in spite of efforts, my best,
I would never have written
any poem, twice shy, once bitten.

[note; verb first 'had i...';
And use of 'if; can be seen]



After English Exam

How Was The Paper ?

It Was Easy But Question 5 Confused Me

What Was the question?

Question 5 Wanted The
Past Tense Of "Think",

I Thought & Thought & Thought
And End Up With Writing "Thinked"



What to do
when you
fail your test



LE 23 NEW - KNEW

*[Use of top comma [apostrophe],
Right and wrong use, one e.g.]*

I will do, something new.
Every single day, starting from today.
I said 'new'
that was yesterday.
Today must be a better day;
So I wrote 'knew'.
So does 'know' vary from 'Now'
No. neither are they in sound
Nor in spelling the same
Do they have a grammar name?
One book says 'confusing words'.

If I write more,
it will be in store
sweet like a honeyed date
coming handy on a dry date

Grammar lets us use it;
The form let's for let us.
It is not wrong to write it's for 'it is';
But it is not right to write 'it's' its
for something that belongs to it.

[Note: knew-past tense of know homophones- words having the same pronunciation.

Date 1. (Like a day in a month)

2. (Like a fruit of a palm)

let us-short form 'let's' It is- short form 'it's'.

*Its- belonging/owned by 'it' It's its Its without top comma -
belom=nging to it - here it's is wrong .]*

Lets or Let's?



LET'S LEARN ENGLISH together



LE 24 DECENT TALK.

Not only euphemism , politeness
in speech is good manners

Words unmentionable to anybody
as some parts or functions of the body

Words to avoid as they bring
shame to the speaker and his kin.

All those are a strict "No, No"
in our house and in those I know.
If some impossible situations need
such use, you need a friend indeed
who is a native speaker

Photo of a bust with a black border
shows the person has crossed the border
of this life and the next
Achieving moksha is the best

A framed photo with a garland
shows he had gone to the land
of great gods and immortal souls
moksha the greatest of goals

Cameramen of the movies are clever
They use bees , plants and flower
to show that there was romance
Nothing explicit; just nuance.

Being decent in public domain
Is not only fine but will also gain

critics' acclaim and censor's certs
On this our cameramen are experts

[cert= certificate , for the sake of rhyme]
[moksha - release from the cycle of birth- death- rebirth
of the soul- Indian belief from ancient times]
[Grammar term: EUPHEMISM]

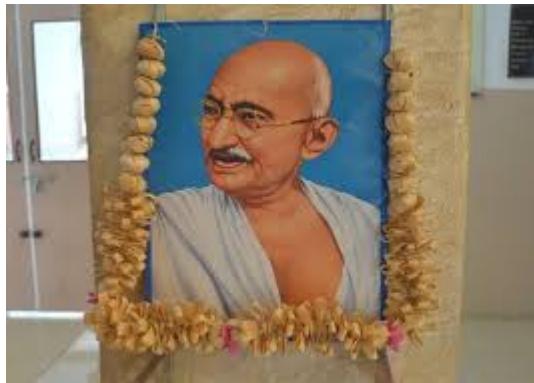
For a pregnancy- she is expecting
She is in the family way

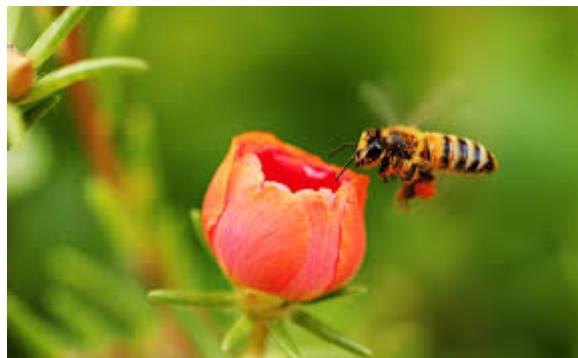
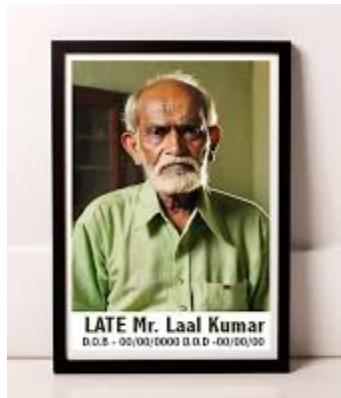
Obituary columns everywhere

Called by the almighty
Is no more with us
Reached the natural end
Became one with nature

Went to in God'd abode [kailasa, vaikunta etc]
Was favoured by the plord on
Reached the feet of the almighty

[Nowhere you will see someone kicked the bucket]





LE 25 GRIM - GRIMMER - GRAMMAR

**Strong rustic users of a language do not need
grammarians approval**

I am yet to see person grimmer
than one who teaches grammar
Be it English or any other dialect
They want YOU to be perfect.

I just closed my eyes.
In front of me there lies
a landscape full of women
fancy clothed and children

All dancing to the tune of a song
beckoning me to come along
Then I heard the drum beat
and the vocal cords that meet
the rhythm and the mood
All sounded and felt good.

Then I realized these were
not just any ordinary verse
The local female folk were not fools.
They had put in their songs, grammar rules.

'An' faces in front a vowel
Come, throw in your towel
Guess if you can
What do others do?

Consonants are those who
want before them an 'a'. Oh man!

Some consonant want 'the, the, the'
like the musical note 'saa ri...,'
Whereas the vowels need 'the, the, the'
like the sixth note 'pa, dha...'

LE 26 PARTS OF SPEECH, Are they ?

The author points out the so far uncorrected flawed technical term in Englishh grammar

Mr.X, the author of English grammar
was, I think, an original thinker, not a crammer.
I do really admire the terms he used
while, in fact, I 'm greatly amused.

He names nouns, verbs and such words
as parts of SPEECH as though he had heard
any English speaker who announced
"Watch my word truly pronounced"

No early speaker knew the terms
of grammar and much less their names.
Mr.X called them parts of speech
so that the native speakers who teach
the language in schools will respect
his work; hence he is great in retrospect.

In fact, parts of speech are for the written English
so that the writer will join the elitist with polish
For grammar, any native will care two hoots
the rustic wearing slippers not even boots.

LE 27 EXCUSE [1]

One of many poly- semous words

EXCUSE is a good word
as long as it is a verb
Along with 'me' if it is heard
makes way even if one moves to the kerb.

'Excuse me' is the phrase to use
if your moving involves another
politeness, it is hard to refuse
even if inconvenient to him or her.

Excuse another person or deed
knowing the action was evil
It is saintly, magnanimous indeed
to pardon truly, not be just civil.

Excuse as a noun
carries with it a curse
as it is, you are down
if discovered, much worse

Excuse to cover inefficiency
soon will become irresponsibility.

Excuse that is lame
adds a LIE to a shoddy work.
If found out it is a shame
It confirms your work you shirk



EXCUSE(2)

If you want to show polish and be polite
say, "Excuse me" not only to the elite
but to all folk who are about;
Don't elbow your way in or out.

EXCUSE (3)

"Excuse me" as a phrase is good
Excuse, the noun, by itself is fake, bad.
Lame one or not, it is understood
the speaker is not saying what he should.

EXCUSE (4)

Illness instead of worker's laziness.
Taxation blamed for bad business.
Inflation quoted to hide government's apathy
Fate blamed by a doctor sans any sympathy.
Shifting the blame elsewhere
Excuses galore; they are everywhere.

MORE EXCUSES

Excuses can be lame
of collocation fame.
Or they can be imaginary
You don't need a dictionary
Or thesaurus to find one ;
All truants are known
to coin and keep an excuse
which any time may be of use.

Grandparents' disease or decease

Was every absentee's excuse
Do not use often; keep a score;
How many of them? Only four.

Real events leading to a transgression
have decent terms for expression
REASON is one such
CAUSE is another
Bosses do not bother
about their truthful touch

Flooding due to excess rain
Late running of the train
A local leader's motorcade
and the road blockade
Any or many of these reasons
are neither lame nor excuses

An excuse is innocent and just a lie
Ruse is roguish to trick an ally
Fuse is a cut-off or trigger
Confuse is what a lawyer does

For an inconvenience yet to be done
say EXCUSE ME
For a mistake
already done
say I'M SORRY

[cartoon:
*I don't want to hear EXCUSES.
How about REASONS?*]



LE 28 THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

*Author feels that there are too strict rules for
The definite article THE -*

Can an article affect life's mantra?

Oh yes, it can, if written by
Lincoln, Kalaam or Narendra.

Such an essay written
from one's heart and mind
Affect with appeals, arguments
and ideals of similar kind.

My problem is nothing so great.
It is just to decide what is appropriate
in a given context and in a sentence.
A, an, the or none to make good sense.

The cow gives milk
whether it is Jersey or its ilk.
All cows give the same
effect of plural to the name.

A, any, the or no article at all
does not change cow's nature
Standard English what they call
is, I think, cow's or bull's manure.

English is what I write, speak
for and with people like me.
It can't be Sanskrit, Latin or Greek

If mine makes sense, suffice it should be.

When I take Sonu to the Zoo
you won't know if it is Mysore Zoo.
It is really 'a' Zoo where I find one
'a' or 'the' mean the same. What fun?

'The cow gives milk' says
any cow any time any place.

The definite article here makes
the cow, 'indefinite' in meaning.
Attitude to accept rules, it takes
to pass, progress in English learning.

Incongruous, irrational they are,
those grammar rules strict
Irrelevant they'll become if we care
only for clarity, not for the critic.

*[parents of school going children may please
ignore this . they [children] HAVE TO tow the
line [follow rules] - this poem for computer
software makers - remove the from many places,
as in our Indian languages- space saving]*

*[Parents! Please see also (the) last page of this
book]*

LE 29 DON'T GET BULLIED. (1)

**Can I DO or MAKE or TAKE or COME TO a decision?
Do I have a choice?**

I thought he will be an ally
a friend, so invited him willingly
I never guessed he will become a bully
showing his red eye even when I
wrote a perfectly good syntax, why?

Because English usage goes
by what the grammarian knows,
What he knows is the usage
not the context and the case.

I wrote "take a decision"
He suggested "make a decision".

In my language, a decision
can be done, taken or even
offered; very rarely make
which is 'build' for god's sake.
You don't do a decision in English
it sounds funny though not rubbish
So I took a decision
with a clear notion
that the computer can't be wrong
It is better to tag along.
So my decision was taken
To make 'take' into 'make.'

[Note: In Tamil a decision can be, in different ways:-

1. Do 'decision' say, paNNu
2. Take 'decision' edu
3. Build 'decision' Kattu (with median)
4. Other Indian languages perhaps are similar]

BULLIED (2)

from my local way
of'doing' a decision
to 'taking a decision'

Do you want me to
"make a decision"

When there are two options
(or more) for me to decide
use your objective perception
won't pick one and put the others aside?

I wrote "take"
You suggested 'make'
Now I have to decide
which will I choose, pick up,
opt for, select?

Certainly 'TAKE' because
I do not make or create a new one.

Let me speak, write,
communicate as I like

My ignorance of some usage
is different from options I take
as long as the readers,

listeners and me vibe
with each other. Let the tribe
of strict grammar be kept at bay
We may not need them now
or sometime we may

Auld Lang Syne

Based on a poem by Robert Burns

Should old acquaintance be forgot
And never brought to mind?
Should old acquaintance be forgot
In the days of auld lang syne?

For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne
We'll drink a cup of kindness yet
For the sake of auld lang syne



VERB COLLOCATIONS

DO	MAKE	HAVE	TAKE
Do nothing	Make an effort	Have a workout	Take a look
Do sums	Make food	Have an interview	Take care
Do a report	Make money	Have a fight	Take a message
Do laundry	Make furniture	Have food	Take ages
Do homework	Make love	Have a doubt	Take action
Do harm	Make contact	Have an idea	Take a test
Do gymnastics	Make coffee	Have difficulty	Take medicine
Do the math	Make changes	Have faith	Take measures

LE 30 DO NOT REST, SHOW INTEREST

[Interest vs interesting]

The word 'interest'
is quite interesting indeed
I write this in jest
My apologies, to purist creed.

Interest as noun everyone knows
The same as verb is also in use
Mine is an attempt to give a dose
of grammar in verse, which I chose.

All of us know how to borrow
beyond one's worth and suffer
whole life is full of sorrow
Budgeting becomes, day by day , tougher.

What you pay just covers the interest
The capital borrowed remains as it is;
The new method of EMI is the best
someday the patient is free of debtitis.

[please do not go for a dictionary to see debtitis]

Keep social distance from a money lender
O family man! The pawnshop man will plunder
your pledge as well as your future assets
Don't get into the ill-advised interest net.

But 'interest' by itself is great
For all students and anyone with a taste
 to enjoy trying out something new
Interest comes out of a desire to learn and do.

Interest as an 'active' verb is archaic
Neither transitive nor the other, the word
 stands out, like sore thumb, by its lack
of direct object or tenses even as it is said.

'Be interested in' is the best way to show
 Your liking and usage as we know
What you said is /was/will be interesting
 Is a sure way of complimenting.

One can take or show interest with 'IN'
 working; not taking time off within
working hours; hobbies can be during recess
 which word is also a mess, I confess.

Grammar is easy, usage is tough
Interest can be there; work-out is rough.
 To our discussion, do not invite
A grammarian, if you don't want a fight.

This piece was interesting, wasn't it ?
Say yes - some compliment - I deserve it.

LE 31 THE SHEPHERD

'free will' is not possible for crowds led by a head

Shepherd owns a herd
otherwise he is not a shepherd
. But how come herds need
a shepherd, if not to feed ?

Shepherd sure feeds his beasts
perhaps with occasional feasts.

But his main duty is to keep
the crowd together since they are sheep.

Do the sheep mind being herded ?
Flock or any differently worded
Not one member can stray
All must be together, move away.

Is there one with its own mind?
Does she want to find her own
path and pasture, if she could find
something other than what is shown?.

If he finds one such sheep or goat
would the shepherd say "Goodbye, good luck"?

Or will his long stick reach the throat
of the vagabond to bring her back to the flock ?

Control, manage, lead is the rule
Benevolence is a mask
You along with me will be a fool

if questions you ask.



LE 32 LET'S NOT (1)

[Yoga teaches acceptance]

LET'S NOT MOCK

Mock at the meditator who,
sitting in Shukaasana went into deep sleep.

Guruji announced : let him be,
Let us not mock, or comment,
or give a mean look.

He is now in a state different from his usual self
away from any aural or visual help.

His closed eyes and posture
have given him such a stature.

Where

he is not fuming at his foes
he is not lamenting his woes
he is not fearful of any failures
crowing with his cronies he is not plotting
against own pals, he is not gloating
over illegal gains

Let him be or go in spiritual sojourn
Let us see and simply live and learn
As long as there is no extra acid or bile
neither dopamine nor adrenaline

let him stay for a while.

He is on his path
Or will come around forthwith

One thing more ;
Next time if any of you
happened to snore,
no shame, just ignore
And be on your path too.

General :
Sleep in Shukhaasana is fun
Half way to meditation done.

[Notes :

1. *Shukhaasana - an easy sitting posture in yoga*
2. *Guru - teacher*
3. *--- ji - suffix to show respect]*

SUKHASANA
THE EASY SITTING POSE



yogicwayoflife.com

LET'S NOT (2)

LET'S NOT MOCK
Mock at the one in the Yoga group
who aiming at Shavaasana or Yoganidra
lapsed into Nidra, the real sleep

He tried to follow the leader
who suggested auto-suggestion

to make inert every body part;
to be numb each limb to cut-out any work-out
not to mention, any tension. IN SHORT
To detach the body from the brain
No more stress, no more strain;
It may be called Shavaasana or Yoganidra
Yet it is neither death or demise
nor sleep or repose

When Guruji's suggestion
calls you back to action
every one of you
is not an expert;
A few still stay inert.

Now Guruji says, let's not mock
at those who repose
For, it is you who are ready to go
and join the urban imbroglio
and can't be any more at ease
Yours was a short-lived peace.
**So let's not mock
anyone in the flock.**

Shavaasana or Yoganidra-posture of repose, rest



LE 33 GERUND

Continuous tense vs verbal noun
– both are useful to all

Banana is a noun, a fruit
The same is a gerund, 'doing' (it)
Our Hindi is no less than English in usage,
unless the teachers of either tongue
quote grammar and begin to harangue.

[harangue (n) forceful speech]
(Sorry for a big word in a beginners book)



The word does the act
as both verb and noun, in fact;
Which ? The same, the word, 'ACT'
Double role, it is truly a tact.

Any verb can be continuous AND
also become a noun, called GERUND
It is not a verbal abuse
if it is called a verbal noun in use.

A mile a day, Mr.Obese is walking
It is good for him. Which ? The walking.
Mr.Obese walks daily and
by walking he gave English a GERUND.

(Hindi words are used banana -a fruit, plantain bana-na - gerund, a noun derived from a verb. making, doing)

LE 34 HOOD

Another homonym

The four letter word HOOD
seen on headlines is never good;
As a suffix the same would
show a quality or mood.

Motherhood anywhere demands respect
Brotherhood is fine in society except
when it is claimed by a fanatic sect.

Hood of a snake is to warn us.
The same seen in a lab conducts gases
Except the human goons
other hoods can be boons

The police is aware of every hoodlum
and rowdy- sheeter of the neighbourhood.
It is never an intelligent idea
to learn a language from print media.



LE 35 DEAR DEPARTED

**Praise the one who passed away-
opportunist's motto**

Our leader is good at oration
He knows what to say when and how
That is how he gets such an ovation
His each speech is a theatrical show.

A show-off he is, is well-known to all
But in this world which is a stage
Lauding the dead or the living or call
a successful sinner a winner is in place.

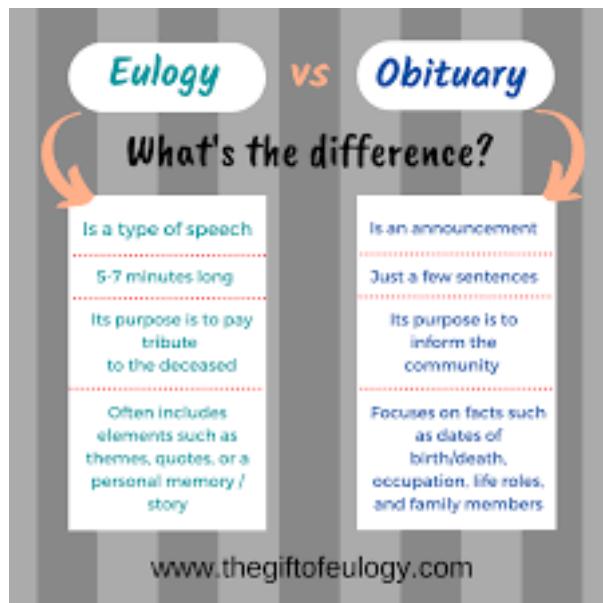
Our leader has a string of words
and proper phrases in the dialect
which he uses to sing the praise
of the donkeys and asses.

Once written, many times repeated these
poems of praise were
created centuries ago to please
the emperors honed
by new writers or made ex-tempore.

Any time of the day he can orate
Anyone present or gone he can venerate
With mike as a tool and muffs as audience
Our leader resounds with brilliance.

Praising the dead is a safe bet
to be praised when his turn comes
Polite people may resent; but not let
the dead man's soul be marred.

Sometimes mixed-up does he get ?
Or the right name does he forget ?
No, never, his secretary from behind
like a cue, is there to remind.



LE 36 COURT (1)

Traditionally people shun law courts

Is 'court' a good word. Or bad ?
I have heard even as a young lad,
Elders scolding me, as bad behavior
if I say 'I swear'
In courts, on Gita, they swear.

Going to court was never done
Even family feuds going on forever
were solved by advice and consultation
Police and court ? No, never.

A visit by a policemen in uniform
to any house, started a rumour mill
The family becomes one of suspicion and scorn
affecting its honour and social goodwill.

So is a call of a court messenger
'amin', 'ameena' as the locals call
His arrival is surely a harbinger
and ill omen of the evil that will fall.

Now that the media is everywhere
even inside huts and hamlets
all women know 'the court' is there
in case they need justice or divorce.

I am sure today's youth
will go to law court

To fight for and get their rights or to complain about.



COURT (2)

Is 'court' a good word. Or bad ?
I have heard even as a lad,
that court was very much part of a super sport.

The high net for playing volley ball
and a dozen players all fit and tall
fascinated me as I watched them hit
from one end of the court across the net.

Other games which were played on courts
were called super stylish sports
needing a neat attire and a racquet to hold
Only the richer of the society could afford.

They are not aristocratic any more
Sanias, Serenas, Sindhus galore
Squash is even quicker than tennis
If you've not heard of it, whose fault it is ?



L 37 FILLER[1] BITTER BUTTER

How come this butter is bitter?
Sorry some mix-up has happened
In a kitchen mishap labels got changed
This fresh butter is better
Mom will help ; let her .

FILLER [2] GHEE OR BUTTER?

Sonu! you don't put butter on bread
Or bread on butter
Either case it will go to gutter
Sonu asked:
Buttered bread is softer tastier
Why not ghee on butter?
It will be much more soft.
Sawaal answered;
Mom doesn't, so I wouldn't
Butter or ghee which is better, healthier?
Uncle: Why bother? Whatever mom gives
Sweets are made with ghee
Taste better, last longer.

FILLER [3] BUTTERFLY

Sawaal; tell me uncle !
Why did Sonu toss the butter up
Sonu said; Sis! You shut up
I never do
Anything like you do,
Uncle: She wanted to see the butterfly
Am I right? Sonu started to cry.

[Sonu, Sawaal - curious children]

FILLER [4] NEED FOR SORTING SOTS [2]

English has many words
for my son and his friends
They can be one of many
Depending on company
Or severe leaning to habit
unable to get out of it

*Addict, wino, tippler, sot
drunkard, drinker, user [of] pot*

Western culture allows wine
as if it is harmless, fine
For them a mug of beer
may bring all round cheer

Like the camel and Arab story
social drinking makes an entry
engulfs the man to make him a slave
of worse habits. I grade them as grave

I suggest that all men
must be subjected to a regimen
of test and questioning
And grade them into a category
As per his addiction's severity

How this will help let
social scientists study
It will help me at the outset
to ask my daughter
“Your bf, which category?”
[SOT is a drunkard Bf- boy friend]



Note: added from the list taken from a thesaurus

Strong matches

- alcoholic
- bacchanal
- boozer -
- carouser
- debauchee
- dipso
- dipsomania
- drinker drunk
- inebriate

LE 38 A Dramatic story

Using the word LIE and a story around it

The legendary landlord was lying on the bier
Soon his body will be on the funeral pyre.

The bier was low, on the ground
but the man's name and fame were high
Though a proud man, he was never found
lying either for fun or winning a tie.

Truthful he was, never told a lie;
For him, no need to hide the truth, for
whenever he failed, he will again try;
admit his faults to anyone near or far.

He was rich, but his wealth
was all earned by his own sweat.
Having been cheated by kin's stealth
the heir, a child, was as an orphan left.

The child never went back to lay
claim to his ancestral estate
He said, "my future will lay
on my work; not on my fate".

He never transgressed the rules laid down
by law, ethics or customary wisdom
"If I'm honest, wealth will come on its own"
said he, "I don't covet a kingdom."

Once they found the orphan, now rich as a man.
His remorseless relatives,

tried as much as they can.
to show themselves as his kith and kin;
But he never let any of the cheats in.
Even as the old man was diagnosed
as being terminally ill.
How many of them proposed
to take care of him? Zero, nil.

Now hearing the news of his death,
see, how many folks have come.
They are here to lay claim for his wealth
as heirs to the whole or to some.

He looked gentle, even lifeless as he lay;
someone said,
"Let him be laid".

On the bier, so we can carry him away.

Common rustics looked up and down
on the well dressed visitors from the town
"No sirs, pall-bearers here are plenty.
For all of us, he was our deity"

The voice of the urban visitors was heard:
" The great man lying here
may not care or hear.
But we would not be caught lying.
If we don't do as he wrote, while dying."

He wrote:
All those who carried my bier
and, or lit the funeral pyre

will get equal share of my wealth
since I've none to call mine, on this earth.

Each one of the urban folk
carried a copy of the purported letter
which they flourished as they spoke
Now the villagers understood their aim better.
With great speed and sudden brake
came a van and white coats came down.
"We medical men are here to take
the body to our college in the town".

A person in black coat and white tie
came forward, said; "I am a lawyer
I uphold law and justice; never lie
though some jokers call every lawyer a liar.

"Respected village head! Come and look;
at the will of the diseased.
From his bag the lawyer took
please read:
'Let me be of use after I had gone.
to medical research, I make my dehdaan".

[dehdaan-body donation]

So, village people!, your mentor
served you when he was living
He was ever loving and giving

The last thing he could give
was his body, which he donated
for the sake of persons who live.

Now there is nothing to be cremated.
Where are the town fellows who laid
their claim to the dead man's property?

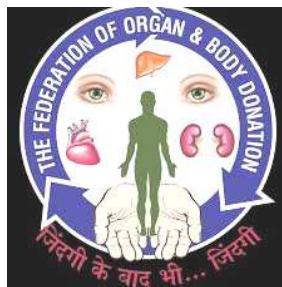
Their evil, clever plot having failed
they were now afraid of their life and liberty.

Fake relatives caught lying
were seen almost flying
to disappear from the scene.
That was the last time they were seen.

All his property
will go to charity
to be managed by volunteers
who knew his dreams and desires.

[grammar notes:

-Lie, lied, lied, lying, lie, lay, lain, lying.
Lay, laid, laid, laying, law--'lawyer; lie--'liar]



LE 39 MODALS AND MARRIAGE

A story for adults

EVERY INDIAN KNOWS

There are, in any echelon
wall flowers; white lilies,
self-conscious cows,
dainty but shy damsels
saataka birds of Sanskrit .

[*saataka – a mythical bird waiting for raindrops to quench its thirst*]

We do not know
how many of them
have waited and waited
for the words---

Not THE three words, stupid!
But one 'I' with a modal .

Every she of the group
was ready with her answer:

[in a meek , almost inaudible voice:]
U MAY, U CAN.

EVERY INDIAN KNOWS

There are, in any echelon
docile donkeys,
creatures in a shell,
afraid of being rejected,
never tried, self-defeating,
hesitant heroes
or simple proud peacocks .

We do not know
how many of them
almost had the two word
on the tip of the tongue
never converted to sound,

Just failed to utter the modals
MAY I, CAN I?

A coward, a darpok
Who never spoke
in front of elders
thanks to affection or respect
[darpok- coward, Hindi]

From him what do you expect?
He never asked "SHOULD I? :

Instead went with a group
He was taken to 'see' a model
He did not look but agreed
And wore the yoke
Of an 'arranged' wedding
It was to assuage the parents' agony
He took this duty of matrimony.

*[see – here a brief occasion to see each other – old Indian custom in
arranged marriages]*

**IF HE WAS HAPPY, IT WAS A 'MODEL' WEDDING
IF HE WAS NOT, IT WAS ALL GOD'S BIDDING.**

[In traditional Indian customs, before marriage, a couple typically wouldn't "see" each other fully until the wedding ceremony itself, often following an arranged marriage system where interactions are usually supervised and limited, with pre-wedding events like "Roka" or "Sagai" allowing for a glimpse and initial family introductions, but not extensive personal interaction.]

Key points about seeing a girl before marriage in Indian customs:

- ***Family involvement:***

Most interactions before marriage would happen with family members present, ensuring proper decorum and upholding social norms.]

On the other side
The wall flower worried about withering away
Waited long and finally fell a prey
To a soaring voyeurizing vulture
Had to leave her home, creed and culture.

She said two words three times "kabool hai"
the fourth girl to say the words to the same guy.

When will the man suddenly utter
the dreaded "T.." word thrice
and leave her in a cultural gutter
I don't know, If you do, you merit a prize.

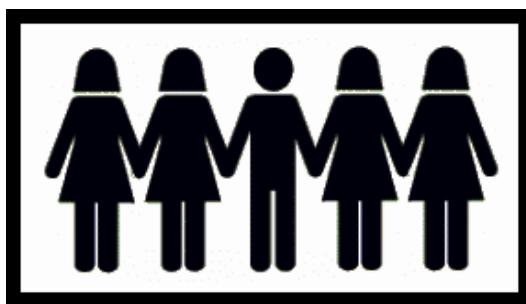
On the other hand
**If they adjusted and it went well
I would say, it is all Allah's will**

Since
MARRIAGES ARE MADE IN HEAVEN
AND NIKHAS ARE MADE IN JANNATH.

*{Notes may be needed- this author is unwilling to give-
non-Indians can show this to friends who know Urdu or
Hindi for help] [non-English words are in italics]*

*[grammar points = MAY, CAN, SHOULD or the modals
used here. For us it is an auxiliary or helping verb used
with another {main} verb*

*Books say modal is a verb modifying the MOOD
of the main verb]*



LE 40 LEXEL, MY WORD

Author's coined word for PALINDROME

A fixed dot on the radar screen
Is an unmoving object as seen
RADAR is a palindromic word
Reads the same, forward or backward.

'Dad' is the father of palindromes
'Mom' is very much a palindrome
Quiet 'mum' is also a palindrome

The action word 'deed' is again a palindrome

Mom is mother, never a boss;
Even if her mood is cross;
Mom can never be any other
Turn away in ire, she is still a mother.

A good deed is its own reward
Deed is good even if seen backward
Returning a good deed is an attitude
It is great and it is called gratitude

So is pop, so is sis ;
What is new, what did i miss?

God is not a palindrome , I can say;
Godot is not a palindrome, it is a play;
Godot can only go to dogs
if it claims to have anything to do with gods .

'Good' is not a palindrome , as you hear;
'Do good' is not a palindrome, though near.

Palindrome is the rotor in a motor
So is noon, but not the moon.

If you live straight
You live right.

Reverse how you 'live' ,if you will
See it leads to evil.

Madam is magnanimous
A madam does not change
Even if you are a stranger
Madam in anger is also magnanimous
Since she accepts ' mad am'

A tenet is a strong belief
Not changing a bit
Even if one argues , long or brief,
or back and forth about it.

I wonder why
The idea never got home
If not all, at least to some,
Or, just one guy
A new word for palindrome

Lexicon can be a dictionary
It is also vocabulary
Lexicography is a great subject
'LEX' is just a root word ,I suggest.

To 'lex', a syllable 'EL' I joined;

Lo! A new word I have coined.
Write LEXEL , read it backward
See if it reads the same word.

A new name or home
For a palindrome
Let me call it LEXEL
A word as short as 'excel'

MALAYALAM is lexel in linguistics class;
ANNA is a lexellent name for a lass

[words given here are:
ANNA, MALAYALAM, TENET, MADAM, NOON, ROTOR, POP, SIS,
DEED, MOM, MUM, DAD, RADAR]

A famous palindromic sentence is
ABLE WAS I ERE I SAW ELBA- in our new usage it will be called
lexel sentence [on Napoleon]



A
EVE
RADAR
REVIVER
ROTATOR
LEPERS REPEL
MADAM I'M ADAM
STEP NOT ON PETS
DO GEESE SEE GOD
PULL UP IF I PULL UP
NO LEMONS, NO MELON
DENNIS AND EDNA SINNED
ABLE WAS I ERE I SAW ELBA
A MAN, A PLAN, A CANAL, PANAMA
A SANTA LIVED AS A DEVIL AT NASA
SUMS ARE NOT SET AS A TEST ON ERASMUS
ON A CLOVER, IF ALIVE, ERUPTS A VAST, PURE EVIL; A FIRE VOLCANO

New word – **LEXEL**

Palindrome .according to the author , is a kind of FIGURE of speech. It is a luxury. So it can be made enjoyable if the above bombastic terminology is avoided. . This new word is our attempt in this direction.

I could have called them MALAYALAM words in English. That would have had an Indian [Kerala] tone and accent.

It could have been
OTTO- German touch
ELLE- French flavour
CIVIC - social significance
ANNA- many parents' choice

I chose **LEXEL** since lex is an apt prefix acceptable to grammarians [hopefully]

Extra GK

www tells me lexell is a given name to a comet after the surname of a researcher. I told myself: someday lexel with a single l may also join the web world.

New label CUCKOO

Onomatoepic word is another ornamental terminology in linguistics. We have used an example of such a word itself as its name.

The bird is called by similar sounding names in Indian languages also.

Calling a spade a spade may be good for an idiom or a proverb, but does not contribute to any image.

A cuckoo certainly reminds one of the two-syllable curt call of the bird [from somewhere amidst leaves] when dark clouds are around.

OED , Oxford English Dictionary, gives one example 'SIZZLE'.

'BUZZ' can be another.

In Tamil the crow is called 'kaka' probably after its call.

Boom, bang, slam etc. may be preferred by comic lovers . Music lovers may use ' see...ng' any ' soo..ng' copying the movie **sound of music**

Cuckoo was good enough for us-- .never meant *any slang reference to a derogatory usage of the nice word.*

Article THE - is it definite?

I took children to zoo . wrong –

It should be 'the zoo' / -

if so, may I ask which one? / - you say how do I know? / - it can be anywhere- think- is the THE here definite?

'a zoo' means any/- THE the also effectively the same / - why fuss?

Cow gives milk . wrong.

Say THE COW gives milk . This means all cows give milk / - . Is it not the same as any cow gives [rather will or can give] milk? / - where is the definiteness the word THE?

If I use the plural **cows** [or all cows] give milk, this is fine. So the article '**the**' makes a singular into a plural. How funny?

All Indian languages use sun , moon, earth , atmosphere etc without any equivalent of "the"-

Are we [English] any wiser, except giving some special status to these nouns ?

Man is mortal , right or wrong? Grammatically? .

English is irrational. Or should it be **the** English ?