

Let me teach you how to use idioms and vocabularies in sentences. Through nine stories based on some social current issues, I am going to teach you around fifty to hundred Words/ Idioms/Phrases in every story /article based on a social or current issue. The 1st story has been taken from the time when the cease fire violation at the border by Pakistan was dealt with by the NDA government very strictly.

Story-1

A Cock & Bull Story?

Kudos¹ to Mr. Narendra Modi. Now I do believe with **certitude**² that Indian soldiers will no longer be **sitting ducks**³. Kashmir has been **an apple of discord**⁴ for India and Pakistan and both the countries have been **at daggers drawn**⁵ for this **bone of contention**⁶. Our **iron-willed**⁷ army always prefers an **olive branch**⁸ to **bad blood**⁹ but unlike Pakistan, in India the ruling party is **in the driving seat**¹⁰ and since long it had been felt that the foreign policy of the UPA government was India's **Achilles' heels**¹¹. With its **clean sweep**¹² in the recent Lok Sabha election, the NDA government, it seems, will **not bat an eyelid**¹³ if our army takes its **sworn enemies**¹⁴ **head on**¹⁵. After getting **elbow room**¹⁶ our soldiers are adopting **tit for tat**¹⁷ policy and are fighting **tooth and nail**¹⁸ at the border. Our **adversary**¹⁹, **unused**²⁰ to such **retaliation**²¹, soon had to **eat humble pie**²². It had been for decades, **moving heaven and earth**²³ for Kashmir, the Switzerland of India. The government of Pakistan builds **castle in the air**²⁴ and **daydreams**²⁵ about getting complete control over Kashmir but this time it has **burnt its finger**²⁶ by breaking ceasefire. Our strong government has given a **befitting**²⁷ reply to the **pied piper**²⁸ of Pakistan and has made him realise that if he **sows the wind, he will have to reap the whirlwind**²⁹. Pakistan will now **hem and haw around**³⁰ avoiding **taking the bull by the horns**³¹. The **will o' the wisp**³² of Pakistan of getting every inch of Kashmir, the paradise on earth, seems a **farce**³³ after the U.N has decided to **sit on the fence**³⁴. United Nation's Secretary General Ban-Ki moon **reiterated**³⁵ that the dispute of Kashmir must be solved through bilateral talks. The U.N's stand **threw cold water**³⁶ upon Nawaz Sharif's last hope and Ban-Ki-moon's refusal to **give ear**³⁷ to Pakistan's request for intervention has put Pakistan in a **tight corner**³⁸. Our soldiers, are **on guard**³⁹ and are also **gung ho**⁴⁰ about settling the dispute of Kashmir **once and for all**⁴¹ but our **seasoned**⁴² Prime Minister is a **Past master**⁴³ of tact and knows that war always makes a country **pay through its nose**⁴⁴. Besides this, it may **turn out to be**⁴⁵ a **Pandora's box**⁴⁶ for the NDA government. India needs to **weigh the pros and cons**⁴⁷ of a **full-blown**⁴⁸ war. Meanwhile a **befuddled**⁴⁹ and **muddleheaded**⁵⁰ baby Bilawal Bhutto out there is **crying for the moon**⁵¹. His childish **Chest-thumping**⁵² for every inch of Kashmir drew loud laughter, soon making him a **laughingstock**⁵³ on all social media.

S. No.	Words/Phrases/Idioms	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
1	Cock and bull story	A cooked up story	मनगढ़त कहानी
2	Kudos	Praise given for achievement	किसी उपलब्धि के लिए प्रशंसा
3	Certitude	Certainty	निश्चितता
4	Sitting ducks	defenceless and easy prey	आसानी शिकार
5	Apple of discord	Cause of quarrel	फसाद की जड़
6	At daggers drawn	in a state of open hostility	दुश्मनी की अवस्था में
7	Bone of Contention	cause of quarrel	फसाद की जड़
8	Iron-willed	of strong will-power	मजबूत इरादे वाला
9	Olive branch	A symbol of peace	शांति का प्रतीक
10	Bad blood	Animosity	दुश्मनी
11	To be in the driving seat	to be in control of a situation	हालात पर कबू होना
12	Achilles' heels	weakest point	सर्वाधिक बड़ी कमजोरी
13	Clean sweep	A complete victory	सम्पूर्ण जीत
14	Not bat an eyelid	Not to show any shock, worry or surprise	किसी प्रकार की घबड़ाहट या आश्चर्य व्यक्त ना करना
15	Sworn enemies	arch rivals	जानी दुश्मन
16	Head on	in a very direct manner	सीधे-सीधे
17	Elbow room	adequate space/freedom for work	काम करने की छूट
18	Tit for tat	An equivalent given in return	जैसे-वैसे
19	Tooth and nail	With all available means	पूरे जी-जान से
20	Adversary	An enemy or opponent	दुश्मन या प्रतिद्वंद्वी
21	Unused	Not habitual	आदी नहीं होना
22	Retaliation	Reciprocate	जवाबी कार्रवाई
23	To eat humble pie	to be forced to admit that you are wrong	गुह को खाना
24	To move heaven and earth	to do all possible effort	भरसक कोशिश करना
25	Castle in the air	Plans that have very little chances of happening	हवाई किले/सुनहरे खब
26	Daydream	to think of pleasant thoughts	सुनहरे सपने देखना
27	To burn one's finger	to suffer unpleasant result	अपना नुकसान कर बैठना
28	Befitting	appropriate	करारा/सर्टिक
29	Pied piper	A leader who makes irresponsible promises	जो नेता गैर-जिम्मेदारान वायदे करता है।
30	To sow the wind and reap the whirlwind	to start some kind of trouble that grows much larger that one has planned	किसी समस्या की शुरुआत करना जो बाद में छाबू से बाहर हो जाए
31	Hem and haw around	to be evasive	बचना
32	To take the bull by the horns and resolutely	to deal with a problem directly	समस्या का दुहा से सीधे-सीधे सामना करना
33	Will'o the wisp	A misleading hope	प्राप्तक उम्मीद
34	Farce	Something that is so bad that it is seen as ridiculous	हास्यस्पद

S. No.	Words/Phrases/Idioms	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
34.	To sit on the fence	Not to take sides in a dispute	किसी का पक्ष न लेना
35.	Reiterate	repeat	बोहरना
36.	To throw cold water	to criticize or stop someone from doing something that he is enthusiastic about	ठम्मीद पर पानी फेर देना
37.	To give ear	to listen to	ध्यान से सुनना
38.	Tight corner	in a difficult situation	मुश्किल अवस्था में
39.	On guard	Vigilant	चौकस
40.	Gung ho	Extremely excited	अति उत्साहित
41.	Once and for all	with finality	एक बार, हमेशा के लिए
42.	Seasoned	experienced	अनुभवी
43.	Past master	adept/skilled	निपुण
44.	Pay through one's nose	to pay heavily	घाटी कीमत चुकाना
45.	Turn out to be	to be found to be	साबित होना
46.	Pandora's box	A source of many troubles	कई समस्याओं का श्रोत
47.	To weigh pros and cons	to evaluate the advantages and the disadvantages	लाभ-हानि का आकलन करना
48.	Full-blown	Fully developed	सम्पूर्ण रूप से विकसित/विकरल होना
49.	Befuddled	Confused	उलझन में होना
50.	Muddle-head	Stupid	बेवकूफ
51.	Crying for the moon	to want something that is not possible	जो संभव नहीं उसकी इच्छा करना
52.	Chest-thumping	the act or practice of boasting	डोंगें मारना
53.	Laughing stock	one who is ridiculed	हंसी का पात्र

Story -2

Nipped in the Bud

Learning Vocabularies is fun, when innovatively done!

A few months ago, I saw the **corpus**¹ of a tiny infant lying in a garbage bin. The **grotesque**² sight **made my heart bleed**³. That **gruesome**⁴ **glimpse**⁵ of an **appalling**⁶ practice of killing girl child **sent shivers down my spine**⁷ and **day in, day out**⁸ it **haunted**⁹ me.

In India, the birth of a son brings a **windfall**¹⁰ for the family while the family makes a **wry face**¹¹ if a girl child is born. A female child is not accepted **with open arms**¹² by the parents and often many female **foetuses**¹³ and infants **give up the ghost**¹⁴ as **foeticide**¹⁵ and **infanticide**¹⁶ are **rampant**¹⁷ **under the rose**¹⁸. Now and then, many **gynaecologists**¹⁹ and **quacks**²⁰ come **under a cloud**²¹ for running sex determination centres but nothing **concrete**²² can be achieved if the society doesn't turn **over a new leaf**²³. The whole society will have to **throw a spanner**²⁴ in the plans of the **seamy side of life**²⁵. All of us will have to **take up arms**²⁶ to fight against this evil practice and will have to be **up and doing**²⁷ for the matter of bringing the **culprits**²⁸ **to book**²⁹. This indeed will be a **yeoman's service**³⁰. Besides this, the **good Samaritans**³¹ must be **argus eyed**³² because through **back stairs influence**³³ many ultrasound centres have **mushroomed**³⁴ in towns and cities and **by the rule of thumb**³⁵, I can say that they are running nothing but sex determination centres. The Government will have to carry matters **with high hand**³⁶ and **clip the wings**³⁷ of these **malefactors**³⁸ and then only it will **come home to**³⁹ them that now the **enlightened**⁴⁰ society of India will not **take this lying down**⁴¹. However it is an **open secret**⁴² that many families have **cloven hoof**⁴³ of getting rid of female foetus and generation after generation we have proved that we are only the **chip of the old block**⁴⁴. Even the to be mother **caves in**⁴⁵ before her in-laws' demands while at such time when she needs to **bandy words**⁴⁶ with them. I am quite amazed when even a **blue stocking**⁴⁷ **blow hot and cold**⁴⁸ while talking about a girl child. They **go the whole hog**⁴⁹ to explain how a male child is **indispensable**⁵⁰ to run the **pedigree**⁵¹ and we have **hobson's choice**⁵² in this matter. My God! Are we the last **descendants**⁵³ of any dinosaur family that we do need to run our **lineage**⁵⁴? I wonder! but still I am **in a way**⁵⁵ and hope that this practice will **sooner or later**⁵⁶ be **done away with**⁵⁷ **neck and crop**⁵⁸.

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
	Nipped in the bud	to put an end to something before it develops	बढ़ने से पहले कुचल देना
1.	Corpus	dead body	शव
2.	Grotesque	horrible	भयावह
3.	Heart bleed	feel genuine sympathy for someone	किसी के लिए संवेदना
4.	Gruesome	horrible	भयावह
5.	Glimpse	A brief look	एक झलक
6.	Appalling	horrible	भयावह
7.	Send shivers down the spine	to make someone feel very frightened	बहुत अधिक भय महसूस कराना
8.	Day in, day out	for indefinite number of successive days	कई दिनों तक लगातार
9.	Haunt	to keep coming back in the mind to upset the person	बार-बार किसी विचार का दिमाग में आना जिससे मन खिन्न हो
10.	Windfall	An unexpected or sudden gain	अचानक प्राप्त लाभ
11.	Wry face	Disappointed look	निराश दिखना
12.	With open arms	with happiness	खुशी-खुशी
13.	Foetus	An unborn baby	भ्रूण
14.	Give up the ghost	to die	मर जाना
15.	Foeticide	killing of a foetus	भ्रूण हत्या
16.	Infanticide	killing of an infant	शिशुहत्या
17.	Rampant	uncontrolled	बेलगाम
18.	Under the rose	secretly	चुपके से
19.	Gynaecologist	A specialist of female diseases and child birth	महिला रोग एवं प्रजनन विशेषज्ञ
20.	Quack	one who pretends to be a medical practitioner	झालाछाप डॉक्टर
21.	Under a cloud	to be under suspicion	पर शंका होना
22.	Concrete	actual, real, strong	ठोस
23.	Turn over a new leaf	to change for the better	अच्छे के लिए परिवर्तन होना
24.	Throw a spanner	to sabotage a plan	किसी प्लान को चौपट करना
25.	Seamy side of life	immoral side of society	समाज का अनैतिक भाग
26.	Take up arms	to fight	लड़ना
27.	Up and doing	Active	चुस्त
28.	Culprit	One who is to blame	दोषी
29.	Bring to book	to punish	सजा देना
30.	Yeoman's service	Excellent work	बेहतरीन काम
31.	Good Samaritan	One who helps everyone	नेकी करने वाला
32.	Argus eyed	Careful, observant	सतर्क, चौकस
33.	Back stairs influence	by unfair means	गलत तरीके से
34.	Mushroom (as verb)	to grow in large number	कुकुरमुते की तरह भारी संख्या में पनप जाना
35.	By the rule of thumb	According to practical experience	अनुभव से
36.	With high hand	very strictly	सख्ती से

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
37.	Clip the wings	to weaken the power	शक्ति/अधिकार पर अंकुश लगाना
38.	Malefactors	one who is guilty of a crime	दोषी, अपराधी
39.	Come home to	to understand	समझना
40.	Enlightened	One who has good understanding or is not ignorant	ज्ञान एवं समझ से परिपूर्ण
41.	Take lying down	accept insult	बेइज्जती स्वीकार करना
42.	Open secret	that many people know about but that is supposed to be a secret	ऐसी गुप्त सूचना जो कई लोग जानते हो
43.	Cloven hoof	evil desire	गलत इच्छा
44.	Chip of the old block	resembling one's parents in habits	जो अपने माता-पिता की ही तरह हो
45.	Cave in	yield	हार मान जाना/ दबाव में आ जाना
46.	Bandy words	to argue	बहस करना
47.	Blue stocking	educated but pedantic lady	शिक्षित पर अपने ज्ञान का दिखावा करने वाली महिला
48.	Blow hot and cold	to speak in favour and against at the same time	पक्ष एवं विपक्ष में एक ही समय में बात करना
49.	Go the whole hog	to do something thoroughly	विस्तार से करना
50.	Indispensable	without which one cannot do	अपरिहार्य
51.	Pedigree	An ancestral line	वंश
52.	Hobson's choice	No choice at all	वास्तव में कोई विकल्प ना होना
53.	Descendant	one who is the offspring of someone	वंशज
54.	Lineage	descend in a line from a common forefather	वंशज
55.	In a way	hopeful	आशावादी
56.	Sooner or later	at some uncertain future time	कभी न कभी
57.	Do away with	get rid of	छुटकारा पाना
58.	Neck and crop	completely	पूरी तरह से

Story -3

Moot Point

Politics is not my cup of tea but why not try my hand at it.

In India corruption is **brewing¹ unbridled²** in the **echelons³** of power. Some ministers **feather their nests⁴ by the virtue of⁵** their posts as usually their subordinates and many business houses present costly gifts to them **to curry favour with⁶** them. Somewhere a son-in-law gets huge pieces of land **for a song⁷** and somewhere a **demagogue⁸** lands for a rally straight from the **gaol⁹** to make a **harangue¹⁰** about how his opponents have **ever and anon¹¹** tried to make his career **chequered¹²**. These so called **revered¹³ puissants¹⁴** of India **fight shy of¹⁵** the reality that they are **damp squib¹⁶** as far as leadership is concerned but **eke out¹⁷** their income by adopting **sharp practices¹⁸**. They **cock a snook¹⁹** at the laws of the land though not publicly. These politicians work **in cahoots²⁰** with one another and their activities and dealings are never **above board²¹**. They even **go the whole hog²²** to **cook the books²³** of the government departments and these **barefaced liars²⁴** hire **veteran²⁵** lawyers who **bend the truth²⁶** in the court and then these **scoundrels²⁷** **go scot free²⁸**. Sometimes the ministers **buy a lemon²⁹** with the government fund at an **exorbitant³⁰** price and thus are **hand in glove³¹** with many **bad eggs³²** in the **daylight robbery³³**. They **pull wool over the eyes³⁴** of the public with their **pack of lies³⁵**. We need to understand that these politicians are **snakes in the grass³⁶** and the common people of India are **down and out³⁷** because of these people who have **feet of clay³⁸**.

I do believe that these politicians will **lose ground³⁹** if the public do not **lose their head⁴⁰** on the **d-day⁴¹**. People must not vote for them just for **ephemeral⁴² loaves and fishes⁴³**. Some **dipsomaniacs⁴⁴** even **give in⁴⁵** for a bottle of wine and some for a few rupees. In an **impoverished⁴⁶** country where many find it difficult to **keep their pot boiling⁴⁷**, the poor are all **in a flutter⁴⁸** when wine which is an **elixir⁴⁹** for them are served to them just a night before the festival of democracy. As a result they sell their integrity and the future of their country for **pittance⁵⁰**. A **man of straw⁵¹** can lead his country from **palmy days⁵²** to its **last legs⁵³**. His irresponsible decisions **put a spoke in the wheel⁵⁴** of the development of the country. Recently India voted for development and not for caste, creed and religion. This of course has **thrown cold water⁵⁵** on the politics of those who used to **set people by ears⁵⁶** and **steal the march⁵⁷** at the time of election by using the word secularism as **red herring⁵⁸**.

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Moot point	A debatable point	बाद-विवाद का मुद्दा
2.	Brew	to start to form	बनना शुरू होना
3.	Unbridled	Unrestrained	बेलगाम
3.	Echelons	a level in an organization or authority	किसी विभाग इत्यादि में पदों का स्थान
4.	Feather one's nest	to earn dishonestly	गलत तरीके से कमाना
5.	By the virtue of	by the power of	के बल पर
6.	To curry favour with	win favour of	की कृपा दृष्टि जीतना
7.	For a song	at a very low price	काफी कम कीमत पर

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
8.	Demagogue	A political leader who tries to get support by making false claims and promises based on emotions rather than reasons	नेता जो झूठे वादों एवं लोगों को भावनात्मक करके समर्थन हासिल करें।
9.	Gaol	Jail	जेल
10.	Harangue	An angry speech	गुस्से से भरा भाषण
11.	Ever and anon	now and then	जब-तब
12.	Chequered	full of ups and downs	उठार-चढ़ाव से भरा
13.	Revered	respectable	सम्माननीय
14.	Puissant	powerful	शक्तिशाली
15.	Fight shy of	to attempt to avoid	से बचना
16.	Damp squib	complete failure	पूर्ण असफल
17.	Eke out	supplement income	आमदनी बढ़ाना
18.	Sharp practices	dishonest means	गलत तरीके
19.	Cock a snook	to show impudent contempt	असम्मान या अवमानना दर्शाना
20.	In cahoots	in conspiracy with someone	किसी के साथ षयंडत्र में
21.	Above board	honest	ईमानदार
22.	Go the whole hog	to do something thoroughly	कोई काम विस्तार से करना
23.	Cook the books	to record false information in order to steal money or show wrong entry to hide stolen money	गलत प्रवृष्टि करना ताकि पैसे की चोरी या गवन छुपाया जा सके
24.	Barefaced liars	Shameless liars	बेशर्म तरीके से झूठा व्यक्ति
25.	Veteran	experienced	अनुभवी
26.	Bend the truth	not to speak the entire truth	सच छुपाना या तोड़-मरोड़ कर पेश करना
27.	Scoundrels	a cruel or dishonest person	क्रूर या बदमाश व्यक्ति
28.	Go scot free	to escape from punishment	सजा से बच जाना
29.	Buy a lemon	to buy something that is worthless	बेकार चीज खरीदना
30.	Exorbitant	very high	बहुत अधिक
31.	Hand in glove	in extremely close relationship	बहुत अधिक घनिष्टता भरे रिश्ते में
32.	Bad eggs	with someone who behaves in a bad or dishonest way	जो गलत या बेईमान तरीके से काम करें
33.	Daylight robbery	blatantly overcharging or removing someone's money by foul play	गलत तरीके से किसी के पैसे का गवन करना
34.	Pull wool over the eyes	to deceive someone	धोखा देना
35.	Pack of lies	full of lies	झूठ का पुलिंदा
36.	Snake in the grass	a hidden enemy	छिपा हुआ दुश्मन
37.	Down and out	poor and ruined	गरीब और बर्बाद

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
38.	Fect of clay	hidden faults	छिपी हुई कमजोरियाँ
39.	Lose ground	Fail to keep position.	अपना स्थान बनाए रखने में असमर्थ होना
40.	Lose their head	to be carried away	भावना में बह जाना
41.	D-day	A day on which something important is planned or expected to happen	जिस दिन कोई महत्वपूर्ण घटना होने वाली हो
42.	Ephemeral	Momentary	क्षणिक
43.	Loaves and fishes	Material benefits	भौतिक लाभ
44.	Dipsomaniac	one who is addicted to alcoholic drinks	शराबो
45.	Give in	yield	हार माना जाना
46.	Impoverished	extremely poor	गरीब
47.	Keep one's pot boiling	earn hardly enough for living	सिर्फ गुजारा भर ही कमाना
48.	In a flutter	excited	उत्तेजित
49.	Elixir	A magical liquid that can cure illness or extend life	अमृत
50.	Pittance	small amount of money	चंद पैसे
51.	Man of straw	A weak man	कमजोर आदमी
52.	Palmy days	prosperous days	अच्छे दिन
53.	On last legs	about to collapse	खत्म होने पर कगार पर
54.	Put a spoke in the wheel	to obstruct	बाधा उत्पन्न करना
55.	Throw cold water	to discourage	हतोसाहित करना
56.	Set someone by ears	to incite people	लोगों को भड़काना
57.	Steal the march	to get ahead secretly	चुपके से आगे बढ़ जाना
58.	Red herring	Something to distract attention.	जो ध्यान भटकाये

Story -4

The Fair Sex

Being a woman, I can give first-hand experiences of what it is to be a woman.

Women play **second fiddle**¹ in the society and since her childhood, a girl child has been **brain fed**² that she will one day leave her **kith and kin**³ and go to her husband's house. She is taught to be **mealy mouthed**⁴ and **live-wire**⁵ and is expected to **stand by**⁶ her husband through all **weal and woe**⁷ **willy-nilly**⁸. The **root and branch**⁹ of her very existence is for her husband and she is always expected to **be in tune with**¹⁰ her in-laws. A man is supposed and expected to keep his wife **under his thumb**¹¹ and he is looked down upon as an **queer fish**¹² if he is unable to hold his wife **to the leash**¹³. It's all **Latin and Greek**¹⁴ to me as to why lakhs and crores are paid to the groom's father. Isn't it **buying a pig in a poke**¹⁵? Besides this, **goods and chattles**¹⁶ are bought for the girl and her to be husband but the items do not include any computer, study table or books. I mean nothing related to **grey matter**¹⁷. I am totally **at sea**¹⁸ when I speak on this issue and when **out and out**¹⁹ **weird**²⁰ replies come, I feel as if I have stirred the **hornet's nest**²¹ and I am **casting a slur**²² upon the age-old tradition. When the life partners are at **loggerhead**²³, it is the woman who **bears the brunt**²⁴ of the society. She usually tries to **gild the pill**²⁵ even when her family life is **at sixes and sevens**²⁶ and god forbids if the couple **burn their boats**²⁷, it is the lady whose life **comes to a standstill**²⁸ as it is not easy to get **fair field and no favour**²⁹ in a **patriarchal**³⁰ society. She **gets into hot water**³¹ and her whole life is supposed to have **gone to dogs**³² once her married life **meets its Waterloo**³³. A girl always stands **against all odd**³⁴ and **through thick and thin**³⁵ in her father's and husband's life but beware, once she is **pissed off**³⁶ you will be really **up in the creek**³⁷ because **hell hath no fury like a woman scorned**³⁸.

Vocabularies

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Fair sex	Women	महिलाएं
2.	Play second fiddle	To have subordinate position	दोयन दर्जा
3.	Brain fed	Taught	सिखाया गया
4.	Kith and kin	Near relatives	नजदीकी रिश्तेदार
5.	Mealy mouthed	Soft-spoken	विनम्रता से बोलने वाला
6.	Live wire	Energetic	उर्जावान
7.	Stand by	Support	साथ/समर्थन देना
8.	Weal and woe	Joy and sorrow	सुख-दुख
9.	Willy-nilly	Whether one wishes or not	इच्छा से या बेमन से
10.	Root and branch	Complete	सम्पूर्ण
	Be in tune with	In agreement or mood	सहमति में

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
11.	Keep someone under thumb	To keep someone under one's control	दबाकर रखना
12.	Queer fish	Strange	विचित्र
13.	Hold someone to leash	To restrain	काबू में रखना
14.	Latin and Greek	Unable to understand	समझ के परे
15.	Buy a pig in poke	To buy a thing without knowing its actual worth	बिना सही मोल जाने कुछ खरीदना
16.	Goods and Chattels	Belongings of home	घर का सामान
17.	Grey matter	Intelligence	बुद्धि
18.	At sea	Confused	उलझन में
19.	Out and out	Completely	पूर्ण रूप से
20.	Weird	Strange	विचित्र
21.	Hornet's nest	Controversy	विवाद
22.	Cast a slur	To disrepute	बदनामी का कारण बनना
23.	At loggerhead	Quarrel	झगड़ना
24.	Bear the brunt	To bear the main attack	हमले का केन्द्र होना
25.	Gild the pill	To cover the unpleasant thing with a pleasant thing	किसी अप्रिय चीज को प्रिय चीज से ढकना
26.	At sixes and sevens	In a state of disorder	अस्त-व्यस्त
27.	Burn one's boat	Point of no return	वापसी का कोई रास्ता ना होना
28.	Come to a standstill	To come to a stop	रुक जाना
29.	Fair field and no favour	Equal opportunities to all	सभी के लिए समान अवसर
30.	Patriarchal	Male dominated	पितृसत्तात्मक
31.	Get into hot water	Get into trouble	समस्या में पड़ जाना
32.	Go to dogs	Ruined	बर्बाद
33.	Meet one's Waterloo	To face final defeat	हार का सामना करना
34.	Against all odds	Despite many difficulties	कई समस्याओं के बावजूद
35.	Through thick and thin	In all circumstance	हर हालात में
36.	Pissed off	Annoyed	परेशान
37.	Up in the creek	In serious difficulties	गंभीर समस्या में
38.	Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned	There is nothing as unpleasant as a woman who has been offended	एक महिला जिसके साथ कुछ बुरा किया गया है, उसके गुस्से से ज्यादा अप्रिय कुछ नहीं हो सकता।

Story -5

Rise of the Phoenix

Arvind Kejriwal got unprecedented mandate in 2015 Delhi Legislative Assembly Election. I couldn't keep my hands off his political career.

Election fever had been at its peak in many states but AAP's rise in a trice¹ inspite of many Trojan horses² causing teething troubles³ to the party made Delhi Assembly election a hot potato⁴. Delhi, that saw congress rule the roost⁵ thrice, this time sent it packing lock, stock and barrel⁶. This election was a two horse race⁷, between AAP and BJP. BJP's performance proved to be a damp squib⁸ and Congress has now met its Waterloo⁹. Both will have to cool their heels¹⁰ for the next five years. The brown sturdy¹¹ of Congress, an age-old party, turned into a nightmare¹² in 2012 when Anna Hazare blazed the trail¹³ that saw unprecedented¹⁴ big draw¹⁵. By and by¹⁶ the movement gained momentum¹⁷, Anna banking on¹⁸ his faithful camaraderie¹⁹ set the Thames on fire²⁰. He stole his rival's thunder²¹ because he is aboveboard²² and speaks straight from the shoulder²³. His fast unto death ruffled quite a few feathers²⁴ among the echelons²⁵ of power but the rot set in²⁶ the movement when later Arvind Kejriwal's fast didn't steal a march on²⁷ his predecessor²⁸ Anna Hazare. Nine days of fast proved ploughing the sands²⁹ and Congress for the whole time played fast and loose³⁰ and turned a deaf ear³¹ to his demands. The meritocrats³² of the movement put their heads together³³ and soon rose to the occasion³⁴ and formed a political party AAP. This off-hand³⁵ decision of the green horns³⁶ rubbed Anna the wrong way³⁷. He put his foot down³⁸ but now none of his zealots³⁹ except Kiran Bedi and a few was ready to invest time and energy in a Quixotic⁴⁰ project. The movement finally petered out⁴¹ and a new party saw the light of the day⁴².

The debutant⁴³ Arvind Kejriwal in his speeches portrayed India as a banana republic⁴⁴ and the public especially the youths went bananas⁴⁵. He insisted that it is barking up the wrong tree⁴⁶ if we try to clean the dirt of politics without entering it. He said that the Congress Party had a ball⁴⁷ and now will have to take a back seat⁴⁸. Soon a whole new ball game⁴⁹ started when General Assembly Election was announced in 2013. Kejriwal emerged as a dark horse⁵⁰ with 28 seats for the AAP in his kitty⁵¹. The BJP leaders who were waiting for the result with bated breath⁵² without an iota⁵³ of doubt that it's their turn now was in for a shock⁵⁴ and the result was a bolt from the blue⁵⁵ for them. The Congress of course had to bite the dust⁵⁶ as it got the boot from the public⁵⁷ and could bag just 8 seats. The blood, sweat and tears⁵⁸ of the volunteers of AAP bore fruits⁵⁹. Kejriwal was their blue-eyed boy⁶⁰ but he was a new kid on the block⁶¹. Overnight he became a big cheese⁶² when he became the CM with the support of the Congress. Though he remained betwixt and between⁶³ for sometime but ultimately he bit the bullet⁶⁴, when on the ground of Jan Lokpal he fell on his sword⁶⁵ and the rein of Delhi went into the hands of the Central

Government. He **beat a hasty retreat**⁶⁶ from Delhi and went to contest Lok Sabha election from Varanasi. Overnight a man who became the CM in his first attempt turned into a **laughingstock**⁶⁷. He was perceived as a **queer fish**⁶⁸ who was considered habitual of **picking holes**⁶⁹ in every person. He who **rubbed the blue blood**⁷⁰ of the Congress party **the wrong way**⁷¹ was now trying to **put a spoke in the wheel**⁷² of the **winning spree**⁷³ of the **past master**⁷⁴ of tact, Mr. Narendra Modi, **the leading light**⁷⁵ of the BJP. Kejriwal **threw down the gauntlet**⁷⁶ by filing his nomination from Varanasi. When the result came he had to **eat humble pie**⁷⁷. The whole **hullabaloo**⁷⁸ proved to be a damp squib. The media that were **all eyes**⁷⁹ during the Lok Sabha election **wrote him off**⁸⁰ and many of his **bosom friends**⁸¹ deserted him **hook, line and sinker**⁸². Kejriwal was **ridiculed**⁸³ on all social media but the **iron willed**⁸⁴ man **rose to the occasion**⁸⁵ and his **steady**⁸⁶ efforts **caught eyes of**⁸⁷ the common public by and by. His **fast and furious**⁸⁸ campaigns and **down to earth**⁸⁹ attitude was a **far cry**⁹⁰ from what it was earlier when he accused and blamed **every Tom, Dick and Harry**⁹¹. The result of the Delhi Assembly election **sealed the fate**⁹² of all oppositions and the man who **got the flak**⁹³ a few months ago was **received with open arms**⁹⁴.

Certainly this common man's CM is **here to stay**⁹⁵ and change the **gear of governance**⁹⁶. Hope this time the Delhi government **goes great guns**⁹⁷ but of course the high expectations of the people will keep the CM **under the gun**⁹⁸. Kejriwal, **once bitten twice shy**⁹⁹ will hopefully **pick up the pieces**¹⁰⁰ and start afresh, though he knows, it will not be that **plain sailing**¹⁰¹.

Vocabularies

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
	Rise of the phoenix (The whole phrase is → 'Rising of the phoenix' from the ashes)	Phoenix is a Greek mythological fire bird that is reborn from the ashes of its own body. It hence means rebirth and resurrection or revival from the lowest point of one's own life.	फिनिक्स एक ग्रीक पौराणिक पक्षी है जो अपने ही राख से पैदा होता है या फिर पुनः जीवित होता है। अतः the Phoenix का अर्थ है 'पुनः उत्थान' या 'पतन के बाद पुनः ऊँचाई तक पहुँचना'।
1.	In a trice	Very quickly	बहुत जल्द
2.	Trojan horse	Someone or something that attacks the group or organization that he/it belongs to or A trap intended to undermine or sabotage a company.	अपने ही दल या संगठन पर हमला करने वाला
3.	Teething troubles	Difficulties experienced initially.	शुरुआती समस्याएँ

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
4.	Hot potato	An issue or question about which people have different opinions and feel very strongly.	ऐसा मुद्दा जिस पर लोगों के अलग अलग मत हों और सभी अपनी विचारधारा पर अडिग हों
5.	Rule the roost	To dominate	राज करना या रासन करना
6.	Lock, stock and barrel	Wholly, completely	पूर्ण रूप से
7.	Two horse race	Which has only two competitors	जिस में सिर्फ दो प्रतियोगी हों
8.	Damp squib	An event which people think will be exciting but which is disappointing when it happens	जिसके दिलचस्प होने की उम्मीद हो पर जब वह घटित हो तो निराशा हाथ लगे
9.	Meet one's Waterloo	To face final defeat	पूर्ण रूप से पराजित होना
10.	Cool one's heels	To wait or be kept waiting for a long time	इंतजार करना/इंतजार कराया जाना
11.	Brown study	Reverie/day-dream	सुनहरे सपने
12.	Turn into a nightmare	Turn into a bad experience	दुःस्वप्न/बुरा अनुभव साबित होना
13.	Blaze the trail	To start a movement/begin a new undertaking	आंदोलन शुरू करना/कुछ नया शुरू करना
14.	Unprecedented	Not done or experienced before	जो पहले कभी नहीं हुआ हो/अभूतपूर्व
15.	Big draw	A huge attraction	बहुत बड़ा आकर्षण
16.	By and by	Before long/ soon	जल्द ही
17.	Gain momentum	Gain strength	समर्थन/बल बढ़ना
18.	Bank on	To rely	पर निर्भर होना
19.	Camaraderie	A feeling of good friendship among the people in a group	अच्छी दोस्ती (समूह के सभी के बीच) सदस्यों
20.	Set the Thames on fire	To achieve something impossible	किसी असंभव चीज को हासिल करना
21.	Steal someone's thunder	To make a better impression	बेहतर असर छोड़ना (किसी प्रतिद्वंद्वी के तुलना में)
22.	Aboveboard	Open and honest	ईमानदार एवं स्पष्ट
23.	Speak straight from the shoulders	Very direct without embellishment	सीधे-सीधे, बिना बनावट या ताम-झाम के
24.	Ruffle quite a few feathers	To annoy some people while making changes or improvement	कुछ परिवर्तन या सुधार करते समय कुछ लोगों को अप्रसन्न कर देना

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
25.	Echelons	A level in an organization/a level of authority or responsibility	सत्ता या जिम्मेदारी का विभिन्न स्तर
26.	Rot set in	A situation starting getting worse	हालत बदतर होना/सड़न शुरू होना
27.	Steal the march on	To gain an advantage on	किसी से बढ़त हासिल करना
28.	Predecessor	That comes before/ancestor	पूर्वगामी/पूर्वज
29.	Plough the sands	Doing that seems impossible or working in vain	बेकार की मेहनत करना या कुछ असंभव करने की कोशिश करना
30.	Play fast and loose	Repeatedly changing one's attitude	बार-बार व्यवहार परिवर्तित करना
31.	Turned a deaf ear	To ignore what someone says	अनसुना करना
32.	Meritocrats	Talented people	प्रतिभाशाली लोग
33.	Put heads together	To consult seriously	चिन्तन करना
34.	Rise to the occasion	Succeed in dealing with a difficult situation	मुश्किल हालात से निपटने में सफल होना
35.	Off-hand	Without previous thought or preparation	बिना तैयारी के
36.	Green horns	Inexperienced	अनुभवहीन
37.	Rub someone the wrong way	Annoy	अप्रसन्न कर देना
38.	Put one's foot down	To assert one's authority	अपनी प्रभुता दर्शाना
39.	Zealot	A person who has very strong feelings about something (such as religion/politics etc.)	कट्टर समर्थक
40.	Quixotic	Hopeful in a way that is not practical	अव्यवहारिक रूप से आशावित होना
41.	Petered out	End weakly	कमजोर हो कर खत्म हो जाना
42.	See the light of the day	To be made available or be known about	उपलब्ध होना/की जानकारी होना
43.	Debutant	One who makes the first appearance in public platform like acting, singing etc.	जो पहली बार सार्वजनिक जीवन में आए (नैसे-अभिनय, गायन इत्यादि में)
44.	Banana Republic	A small, poor country with a weak or dishonest government	एक छोटा गरीब देश जिसकी सरकार कमजोर व भ्रष्ट हो
45.	Go banana	Become very angry/ act crazy	बहुत अधिक गुस्सा या उन्मादित हो जाना
46.	Bark up the wrong tree	Waste one's efforts by pursuing the wrong thing or path	गलत या बेकार काम में ऊर्जा व्यर्थ करना

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
47.	Have a ball	Enjoy oneself greatly	भरपूर मस्ती करना
48.	Take a back seat	Occupy an inferior position	दोयम दर्जा लेना
49.	Whole new ball game	A completely different situation	बिल्कुल अलग हालात
50.	Dark horse	A little known person that emerges to prominence	जो एक अपरिचित चेहरा हो परन्तु बाद में मशहूर हो जाए
51.	In one's kitty	A container kept for a particular purpose to which all members jointly contribute	ऐसा पात्र/बैग इत्यादि जिसमें गुट के सभी लोग कुछ प्रदान करें
52.	With bated breath	Feel very excited or anxious while waiting	इंतजार करते समय घबराहट व उत्तेजना महसूस करना
53.	Iota	Very small amount	बहुत थोड़ा
54.	In for a shock	To get a sudden unpleasant surprise	अचानक मानसिक धक्का/अघात लगना
55.	Bolt from the blue	Unexpected and unpleasant experience	अचानक आई मुसीबत
56.	Bite the dust	To suffer humiliation or defeat	शर्मिन्दगी या हार का सामना करना
57.	Get the boot from the public	To be kicked or rejected	दुत्कार दिया जाना
58.	Blood, sweat and tears	A lot of effort and sufferings	काफी प्रयास एवं परेशानी
59.	Bear fruits	To give good results	फलदायक होना
60.	Blue-eyed boy	Very dear/Apple of one's eye	बहुत प्यार/आँखों का तारा
61.	New kid on the block	Someone who is new in a place or organisation and has many things to learn	जो किसी स्थान/संस्था में नया हो और उसे काफी कुछ सीखने की जरूरत हो
62.	Big Cheese	Important person	महत्त्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति
63.	Remain betwixt and between	To remain in a midway position/doubtful	बीच के हालात में/निर्णय लेने में असमर्थ
64.	Bite the bullet	To enter with resignation upon a difficult course of action	हिचकिचाहट के साथ कोई कठिन कार्य करना
65.	Fall on one's sword	Assume responsibility or blame on behalf of other people, especially by resigning from a position	जिम्मेदारी लेते हुए अपने पद से इस्तीफा देना
66.	Beat a hasty retreat	Run away/abandon	भाग जाना
67.	A laughingstock	A person or thing that is regarded as very foolish or ridiculous	मजाक का पात्र
68.	Queer fish	Strange person	विचित्र व्यक्ति

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
69.	Pick holes	To find fault	खामियाँ निकालना
70.	Blue blood	Royal	शाही
71.	Rub the wrong way	To irritate someone	किसी को चिढ़ा/अप्रसन्न कर देना
72.	Put a spoke in the wheel	To spoil someone's plan	किसी के प्लान को बिगाड़ देना
73.	Winning spree	Outburst of an activity	भरमार/बहुतायत में
74.	Past master	Expert	निपुण
75.	The leading light	A person who is very important member of a group	किसी ग्रुप का अति महत्वपूर्ण व्यक्ति
76.	Throw down the gauntlet	To challenge	चुनौती देना
77.	Eat humble pie	To be forced to admit that you are wrong	य मानने पर मजबूर होना कि स्वयं गलत है।
78.	Hullabaloo	A very noisy and confused situation	शोरगुल एवं उलझन भरी हालात
79.	All eyes	Watching very closely	बहुत बारीक नजर रखना
80.	Write off	To regard or concede to be lost	महत्वहीन/बोझ से बाहर करार देना
81.	Bosom friends	Fast friends	जिगरी दोस्त
82.	Hook, line and sinker	Completely, without hesitation or reservation	बिना झिझक के, पूरी तरह से
83.	Ridicule	To deride	मजाक उड़ाना
84.	Iron-willed	Of strong determination	मजबूत इरादे का
85.	Rise to the occasion	To meet the challenge of an event	चुनौती का सामना करना
86.	Steady	Stable, uniform	लगातार
87.	Catch eyes of	To attract the attention of	ध्यान आकर्षित करना
88.	Fast and furious	Swiftly, intensely and energetically	फूँति एवं स्फूर्ति से
89.	Down to earth	Humble	बिनाम
90.	A far cry	Notably different	काफी अलग
91.	Every Tom,	Everyone without discrimination	हर ऐस-गैस
		Dick and Harry	
92.	Seal the fate	End in failure	असफलता में खत्म होना
93.	Get the flak	To receive criticism	आलोचना पाना
94.	To receive with open arms	To welcome	स्वागत करना
95.	Here to stay	Set to remain for a longer period	काफी समय तक रहना

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
96.	Change the gear	Change one's approach in handling a problem	समस्या से निपटने का तरीका परिवर्तित करना
97.	Go great guns	Progress very well	बहुत अच्छी तरह सफल होना
98.	Under the gun	Under pressure to do something	कुछ करने का दबाव होना
99.	Once bitten twice shy	Taking full precaution because he/she has been hurt once पीता है।	एक बुरे अनुभव के वजह से आगे सतर्कता रखना/दूध का जला, छाछ भी फूँक के
100.	Pick up the pieces	Try to repair emotional, financial or other damage done to life	भावनात्मक, आर्थिक या अन्य प्रकार के अघात से उबरना
101.	Plain sailing	Easy progress over an unobstructed course	बिना रूकावट के आसान तरक्की

Story -6

Sweat of the brow

'Children of lesser god' too need equal attention.

Child labourers and their exploiters are **ubiquitous**¹ not only **pan India**² but also throughout the world. From **paedophilic**³ to **sadist**⁴ the exploiters can be of any type and the problem is **aggravating**⁵ day by day. Usually in our country **Fabian policy**⁶ is adopted to deal with those whose actions **fly in the face of**⁷ the orders of the various rulings and acts of the country. In fact whether it is a tea stall or a construction site, almost every place **speaks volume**⁸ for this **heinous**⁹ and **abominable**¹⁰ fact as child labour can be seen all around us. The exploiters **snap their fingers**¹¹ at the law saying it is better to work than to die from starvation. The **toil and moil**¹² of these young mass is also not paid adequately as many children are **at a loose end**¹³ and are ready to do any **back breaking**¹⁴ work just to **keep the wolves away from the door**¹⁵. Almost all Acts made against child labour prove **futile**¹⁶ **at close quarters**¹⁷ as children who are **dead broke**¹⁸ and **down and out**¹⁹ cannot hire **great hand**²⁰ to fight their cases **to the finish**²¹. The **fool's errand**²² cannot make **two square meals**²³ available to them. Even when certain **small fry**²⁴ and **green horns**²⁵ come to their rescue, the offenders try to **grease their palm**²⁶ and many times these **good Samaritans**²⁷ **give a wide berth**²⁸ to all such **big fish**²⁹. Sometimes even the police **spill the beans**³⁰ and even **take up the cudgels**³¹ for child labour terming it a **necessary evil**³². The concerned authorities too **pass the buck**³³ and well known faces just **play the gallery**³⁴ by raising such issues on public platform. We, the enlightened and educated class, do not **turn a hair**³⁵ when we see child labourers around us. The **elite**³⁶ and influential classes too that can really do something concrete very easily, **wash their hands of**³⁷ all such evils that are **rampant**³⁸ and **deep rooted**³⁹ in our society. In my opinion it is obvious that the **rank and file**⁴⁰ usually **run short of**⁴¹ necessities of life but this in no way must be a **sort in the arm**⁴² of child labour in India. Of course abolition of child labour from a developing country is an **uphill task**⁴³ but its presence is a **clear writing on the wall**⁴⁴ that **steering clear of**⁴⁵ it will invite serious human right violation.

Vocabularies

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Sweat of the brow	Hard labour	कड़ी मेहनत
2.	Ubiquitous	Universal	सर्वव्यापी
3.	Pan India	Present throughout India	पूरे भारत में मौजूद
4.	Paedophilic	One who has sexual desires with children	बाल यौन-शोषक
5.	Sadist	One who derives pleasure in others' pain	जो दूसरे के दर्द से सुख हासिल करें
6.	Aggravation	To worsen	बदतर बनाना
7.	Fabian policy	Policy of delaying decisions	निर्णय टालने की रणनीति
8.	Fly in the face of	To defy	उल्लंघन करना
9.	Speak volumes of	To have abundant proof of	भारी मात्रा में सबूत होना
10.	Heinous	Very bad or evil	बहुत खराब
11.	Abominable	Fit to be hated	नफरत के लायक
12.	Snap fingers at	To show contempt	असम्मान/अवमानना दर्शाना
13.	Toil and moil	Hard labour	कड़ी मेहनत
14.	At a loose end	Idle/unoccupied	बिना काम का/बेकार
15.	Back breaking	Physically demanding	कमर-तोड़
16.	Keep the wolves away from the door	To avoid starvation	भुखमरी से बचना
17.	Futile	Fruitless	निष्फल
18.	At close quarters	Close examination	अच्छे तरीके से निरीक्षण
19.	Dead broke	Penniless	अत्यन्त गरीब
20.	Down and out	Poor and ruined	गरीब और बर्बाद
21.	Great hand	Expert	दक्ष
22.	Fight to the finish	Fight to the end	अंत तक लड़ना
23.	Fool's errand	Useless undertaking	बेकार का काम
24.	Square meals	Substantial nourishing meals consisting of enough food to satisfy hunger	घर पेट मोषक खाना
25.	Small fry	Not important person	आम आदमी
26.	Green horns	Inexperienced	अनुभवहीन
27.	Grease the palm	To bribe	रिश्वत देना
28.	Good samaritan	One who helps strangers	जो अनजाने लोगों की मदद करता हो।
29.	Give a wide berth	To avoid	नज़रअंदाज करना

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
29.	Big fish	Influential people	जिन की ऊपर तक पहुँच हो
30.	Spill the beans	To reveal the secret	राज उगल देना
31.	Take up the cudgels	To support or defend	समर्थन या बचाव करना
32.	Necessary evil	Something wrong but essential	जो गलत है लेकिन जरूरी है
33.	Pass the buck	To blame each other	एक दूसरे पर आरोप मढ़ना
34.	Play the gallery	To gain cheap popularity	सस्ती लोकप्रियता हासिल करना
35.	Turn a hair	Show reaction	प्रतिक्रिया व्यक्त करना
36.	Elite	High class	उच्च वर्ग
37.	Wash hands of	To have nothing to do	कोई मतलब नहीं होना
38.	Rampant	Widespread	व्यापक
39.	Deep rooted	Existing for a long time and difficult to change	जो लम्बे समय से हो और जिसे परिवर्तित करना मुश्किल हो
40.	Rank and file	Ordinary people	अम आदमी
41.	Run short of	Lack	कमी होना
42.	A shot in the arm	To encourage	प्रीतिहित करना
43.	Unhill task	Difficult task	मुश्किल काम
44.	Clear writing on the wall	A warning	चेतावनी
45.	Steer clear of	To avoid	से बचना

Story -7

Anglophobia

Now don't tell me, you aren't anglophobic.

English, an alien language for almost half of the Indians, is a cause of **dread**¹, **panic**² and **trepidation**³ for many. Anglophobia, a well-known problem in India even leads to a **recluse**⁴ life style and such people become **xenophobic**⁵ and **introvert**⁶. Since their education is in Hindi medium or their regional language, they are found to be not only **cacographist**⁷ when they write but also **circumlocutory**⁸ and **inaudible**⁹ when they speak as they lack the knowledge of exact words to present their ideas in a **succinct**¹⁰ manner and hence they gradually grow diffident. While writing answers they are usually **verbatim**¹¹ and **verbose**¹². The **facsimile**¹³ of the exact passage hardly fetches any marks for them and this in turn make the **bibliophilic**¹⁴ students **taciturn**¹⁵ and **aloof**¹⁶. This **posse**¹⁷ of Anglophobic **pupils**¹⁸ turn **pedantic**¹⁹ when it comes to expressing their views in their mother tongue. They become **loquacious**²⁰ and their articles become **terse**²¹ and they, **infallible**²². Many such students try to mask their **achilles' heels**²³ and instead of **taking a leaf out of**²⁴ **the erudite's**²⁵ **book**, they **throw a spanner**²⁶ in the plans and syllabus of the different commissions conducting exams in India. The same happened when life was **thrown out of gear**²⁷ due to the agitations **staged**²⁸ by the Civil Services candidates of the Hindi belt. The Government had to **throw up the sponge**²⁹ when the agitation gradually **gained momentum**³⁰ and **took the government by storm**³¹. Usually **when the crunch comes**³² it seems, politics wins and this language of mass communication loses the battle. Anglophobia, in my opinion, is **gnosiphobia**³³ because all scientific discoveries and inventions made by the **occidental**³⁴ are passed on to the **oriental**³⁵ in the native language of the West i.e. English. We **misconstrue**³⁶ them as **bohemian**³⁷ and **swashbuckler**³⁸ but we fail to **appreciate**³⁹ that they are **versatile**⁴⁰, **diligent**⁴¹ and **indefatigable**⁴². English is here to stay. Our **deftness**⁴³ in adapting ourselves to the changing world will decide which way we go, towards our **regression**⁴⁴ or our **progression**⁴⁵.

Vocabularies

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
	Anglophobia	Fear of English and English things	अंग्रेजी एवं उससे संबंधित वस्तुओं से डर
1.	Dread	Fear	डरना
2.	Panic	Fear	डरना
3.	Trepidation	A feeling of fear that causes one to hesitate because he thinks that something unpleasant is going to happen	डर का अहसास जो कुछ अप्रिय हो जाने के शंका से उत्पन्न हो।
4.	Recluse	Marked by withdrawal from society	अकेला रहने वाला
5.	Xenophobic	One who is afraid of whatever is of foreign origin	जो विदेशी लोगों और वस्तु से डरता हो।
6.	Introvert	One who is shy, quiet and does not find it easy to talk to others	अंतर्मुखी
7.	Cacographist	One who has bad handwriting & spellings (antonym of orthographist and calligraphist)	जिसकी लिखवाट या बर्तनी खराब हो
8.	Circumlocutory	Roundabout way of speaking	घुमा-फिरा कर बता करना
9.	Inaudible	Not possible to hear	जो सुनाई ना दे।
10.	Succinct	Precise, without wasted words	संक्षेप में, बिना फालतू शब्दों के
11.	Verbatim	Word for word/ in the exact words	शब्दशः
12.	Verbose	Using more words than needed	जरूरत से ज्यादा शब्दों का प्रयोग
13.	Facsimile	An exact copy	दु-ब-दु
14.	Bibliophilic	One who loves books	किताबों से प्यार करने वाला
15.	Taciturn	Quiet, reticent	चुप रहने वाला
16.	Aloof	Alone	अकेला
17.	Posse	A group of people who are same in some way	लोगों का समूह जो किसी प्रकार समान हो
18.	Pupil	Student	छात्र
19.	Pedantic	One who displays his knowledge	अपने ज्ञान का बखान करने वाला
20.	Loquacious	Talkative	बातूनी
21.	Terse	Concise, using few words	बिना फालतू शब्दों के
22.	Infallible	That cannot make mistakes	जो गलती ना करे
23.	Achilles' heels	A weak or vulnerable point	कमजोरी

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
24.	Take leaf out of one's book	To emulate	बराबरी करना
25.	Erudite	Scholarly, having academic knowledge	पढ़ा-लिखा
26.	Throw a spanner	To sabotage a plan	प्लान नाकाम करना
27.	Throw out of gear	Not working properly	ढोक से काम ना करना
28.	Stage (verb)	Organize, arrange	करना (प्रदर्शन, आंदोलन इत्यादि)
29.	Throw up the sponge	Surrender	समर्पण करना
30.	Gain momentum	Gain force or strength	शक्ति/ बल में तेजी आना
31.	Take someone by storm	To surprise unexpectedly	आश्चर्यचकित कर देना
32.	When the crunch comes	The moment of decision	निर्णय का समय
33.	Gnoscophobia	Fear of knowledge	ज्ञान से डर
34.	Occidental	Of Europe	यूरोपीय देश का
35.	Oriental	Of Asia especially Eastern Asia	एशिया खास का पूर्व एशिया का
36.	Misconstrue	Misunderstand	गलत समझना
37.	Bohemian	A person of unconventional life style	अपारम्परिक जीवन शैली वाला व्यक्ति
38.	Swashbuckler	A boastful person	डोंगे मारने वाला
39.	Appreciate	To understand the worth of	का मोल समझना
40.	Versatile	Able to do many different things	बहु-प्रतिभाशाली
41.	Deftness	Skill	दक्षता
42.	Indefatigable	That doesn't tire	जो थके नहीं
43.	Diligent	Hardworking	मेहनती
44.	Regression	Retrogression/ return to former stage	पीछे जाना
45.	Progression	The process of developing over a period of time	प्रगति (समय से साथ)

Story-8

Gift of the Gab

You can twist the world around your little finger if you have gift of the gab.

What wonders an **orator**¹ can do was proved by our PM in the Lok Sabha election. He is **articulate**², **deft**³ and his **extemporaneous**⁴ speech leaves the audience **mesmerised**⁵ and **spell-bound**⁶. His **impromptu**⁷ speeches are never **harangue**⁸ and usually **brings the house down**⁹. In the same way, many other political parties have **eloquent**¹⁰ leaders who are though **wet behind the ears**¹¹ **beggar description**¹² when it comes to **articulacy**¹³. A **silver-tongued**¹⁴ person can **break the ice**¹⁵ easily and is always **in the good books of**¹⁶ his **acquaintances**¹⁷. He never **develops cold feet**¹⁸ when it comes to public speaking. While the **demophobic**¹⁹ people **cut no ice**²⁰ with the crowd, a **glib**²¹ and **nonchalant**²² speaker with his **unambiguous**²³ speech never **falls short of**²⁴ impressing the listener. Teaching too is more of an art that needs a lot of eloquence besides knowing **the ins and outs**²⁵ of one's subject. A teacher must be **a live wire**²⁶ and must **hold the class to his leash**²⁷. **Loaves and fishes**²⁸ must not be his prime concern and he must prove himself to be **a man of parts**²⁹ if he wants to be **revered**³⁰ by his students. An **old hand**³¹ knows how to **elicit**³² responses whether it is from a class or a crowd but I am pained when I see the political parties **painting the town red**³³ in the name of rallies where the **boisterous**³⁴ politicians boast of from the **rostrum**³⁵ while the common man **pay through his nose**³⁶ for such **reverie**³⁷ in the form of tax. The leaders **play to the gallery**³⁸ and **pull the wool over the eyes of**³⁹ the common people in the name of caste, religion and region. Recently the Supreme Court has **put its foot down**⁴⁰ and has put an end to taxpayer funded full-blown **narcissism**⁴¹ of politicians by banning the government from issuing media advertisements containing photos of ministers and political leaders.

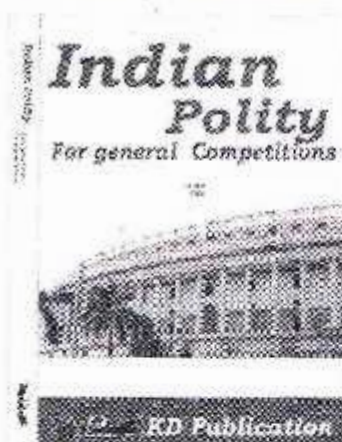
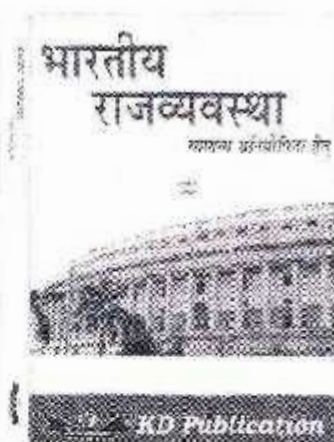
Vocabularies

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Gift of the gab	The ability to speak persuasively	वाक्पटुता
2.	Orator	One who is good at making speeches	अच्छा वक्ता
3.	Articulate	Able to express ideas clearly and effectively in speech or writing	जो अपने विचार को स्पष्ट एवं प्रभावशाली तरीके से भाषण या लेख में व्यक्त कर सकें।
3.	Deft	Skillful & clever	दक्ष

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
4.	Extemporaneous	Without preparation	बिना तैयारी के
5.	Mesmerised	To hold the attention completely or spell-bind	मंत्रमुग्ध करना
6.	Spell-bound	To hold the attention completely	मंत्रमुग्ध करना
7.	Impromptu	Without preparation	बिना तैयारी के
8.	Harangue	A forceful or angry speech	गुस्सा भरा भाषण
9.	Brings the house down	To receive great applause	बहुत अधिक तारीफ पाना
10.	Eloquent	Having the ability to use language clearly and effectively	अच्छा वक्ता
11.	Wet behind the ears	Inexperienced	अनुभवहीन
12.	Beggar	Unable to be described	जिसको वर्णन करना मुश्किल हो
13.	Articulacy	The state of being eloquent	अच्छा वक्ता होने का गुण
14.	Silver-tongued	Able to speak in a way that makes people do or believe what you want them to do or believe	प्रभावशाली वक्ता
15.	Break the ice	To begin conversation	बातचीत शुरू करना
16.	In the good books of	In favour of	के पक्ष में
17.	Acquaintances	One who is known	परिचित
18.	Develop cold feet	To become nervous	घबड़ा जाना
19.	Demophobic	A person who is afraid of crowd masses or people	भीड़ या लोगों के बीच घबड़ा या डर जाने वाला
20.	Cut no ice	To leave no influence	असर ना छोड़ना
21.	Glib	Speaking in a smooth, easy way without preparation and that is not sincere	गंभीरता से रहित, आराम के बिना तैयारी की बात
22.	Nonchalant	Relaxed and calm	शांत, चिंता रहित
23.	Unambiguous	Clear	स्पष्ट
24.	Fall short of	To fail to attain something like a goal	में नाकामयाब रहना
25.	The ins and outs	Minute details	सम्पूर्ण जानकारी
26.	A live wire	Energetic	उर्जावान
27.	To hold to one's leash	To restrain or control	काबू में रखना
28.	Loaves and fishes	Materialistic wealth	भौतिक सम्पत्ति
29.	Man of parts	Talented	गुणवान

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
30.	Revered	Respected	सम्मानित
31.	Old hand	Experienced	अनुभवी
32.	Elicit	To draw out	निकालना
33.	Painting the town red	Celebrate flamboyantly	खुशी या जश्न मनाना दिखावे के साथ
34.	Boisterous	Noisy	शोर मचाने वाला
35.	Rostrum	A small raised platform on a stage	स्टेज का ऊँचा स्थान
36.	Pay through his nose	To pay dearly	श्रमता से ज्यादा चुकाना
37.	Reverie	Merriment	खुशी
38.	Play to the gallery	To gain cheap popularity	सस्ती लोकप्रियता हासिल करना
39.	Pull wool over the eyes of someone	To blind to the true situation	सही हालात से दिशा भ्रमित करना
40.	Put its foot down	To assert one's authority	अपने पद की शक्ति दर्शाना
41.	Narcissism	Self-love and admiration	स्वयं की प्रशंसा

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Story-9

Fables and Parables

After lullaby, the best thing that happened in my life.

Legends¹ and **Anecdotes**² make us **nostalgic**³ and they take us down the memory lane to our Childhood. Our grandparents were **raconteurs**⁴ and had **gift of the gab**⁵. Their **lucid**⁶ way of explaining the **minute**⁷ and **ingrained**⁸ details of the stories, they narrated, made this relation **close to our heart**⁹. Every night, I waited, with **bated breath**¹⁰, for the **folktales**¹¹ and **yarn**¹² of my grandmother who was **mealy-mouthed**¹³ and **stood in great stead**¹⁴ whenever anyone needed her. She **kicked the bucket**¹⁵ when she was **as fit as fiddle**¹⁶. This **bolt from the blue**¹⁷ took me and my **siblings**¹⁸ **by storm**¹⁹. Now I do understand the **weal and woe**²⁰ of life and know that we have to **throw up the sponge**²¹ **willy-nilly**²² to the events **destined**²³ in our life. As far as I am concerned, I am a **green horn**²⁴ in comparison to my grandmother who was a **great hand**²⁵ at story telling. For me story telling is a **herculean task**²⁶ and my son **hauls me over the coals**²⁷ if I fail to **bring the house down**²⁸ by my performance. I am a **damp squib**²⁹ at story telling but still **die hard**³⁰. **Candidly**³¹ I would say that all my efforts **end in fiasco**³² and at the end he **pulls a long face**³³ and I find myself **ploughing the sands**³⁴. He **picks holes**³⁵ in all my stories and I end up with my **foot in the mouth**³⁶.

Children love **tall stories**³⁷ too though **with a pinch of salt**³⁸. Though the stories of fairies and **legendary**³⁹ characters appear **will O' the wisp**⁴⁰ but undoubtedly these stories arouse the power of imaginations and help children build **Ivory tower**⁴¹ and stay **in a flutter**⁴² all day long.

Vocabularies

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
1.	Fables	Short stories with animal characters	जानवरों के किरदार वाली छोटी कहानियाँ
	Parable	A short story with a moral lesson	नैतिक कहानी
	Legends	A story from past that is believed by many people but can't be proved to be true	ऐसी कहानी जिसकी प्रामाणिकता सिद्ध न हो

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
2.	Anecdotes	Short account of an incident	लघुकथा/किस्सा
3.	Nostalgic	Pleasure and sadness that is caused by remembering something from the past and wishing that you could experience it again	पुरानी यादें जिसे याद करके सुख-दुख की अनुभूति हो
4.	Raconteur	A person skilled in telling stories	मजेदार कहानियाँ सुनाने वाला
5.	Gift of the gab	Art of speak	बोलने की कला में निपुण होना
6.	Lucid	Very clear and easy to understand	सुस्पष्ट
7.	Minute	Very small	सूक्ष्म
8.	Ingrained	Deeply embedded	अंतर्निहित
9.	Close to our heart	Very dear	बहुत प्रिय होना
10.	Bated breath	In anxiety/expectancy	उत्सुकता और उम्मीद के साथ
11.	Folktales	A story originating in popular culture typically passed on by word of mouth	लोक-कथा
12.	Yarn	An exciting or interesting story	रोमांचक कहानी
13.	Mealy-mouthed	Soft-spoken	मधुरभाषी
14.	Stand in great stead	To be helpful in need	जरूरत के समय मदद करना
15.	Kick the bucket	To die	मर जाना
16.	As fit as fiddle	Healthy	स्वस्थ
17.	Bolt from the blue	Sudden or unexpected shock	अकस्मात धक्का
18.	Siblings	A person's brothers or sisters	सहोदर/भाई-बहन
19.	To take by storm	To surprise	चकित करना
20.	Weal and woe	Joy and sorrow	सुख और दुःख
21.	Throw up the sponge	Surrender	आत्म समर्पण
22.	Willy-nilly	Whether one wishes or not	चाहे या ना चाहे
23.	Destined	Governed by fate	भाग्य का लिखा हुआ
24.	Green horn	Inexperienced	अनुभवहीन
25.	Great hand	Expert	विशेषज्ञ
26.	Herculean task	Very difficult work	जटिल कार्य

S.No.	Words	Meaning in English	Meaning in Hindi
27.	Haul over the coals	To take to task	डौटना
28.	To bring the house down	To do something that takes attention away from what someone has done	कान्नी तारीफ़ पाना श्रेय लेना
29.	Damp squib	Complete failure	पूर्ण रूप से असफल
30.	Dic hard	Persistent in struggle	निरंतर मेहनत करने वाला
31.	Candidly	Frankly	स्पष्ट रूप से
32.	End in fiasco	Come to nothing/ unconcluded	निष्कर्ष न निकलना
33.	Pull a long face	To look sad	उदास दिखना
34.	Ploughing the sands	To do futile labour	व्यर्थ परिश्रम करना
35.	Picks holes	To find fault with	दोष निकालना
36.	Foot in the mouth	To say something that one regrets later	गलत कहने के बाद पछतावा करना
37.	Tall stories	Stories difficult to believe	विश्वास न करने योग्य कहानियाँ
38.	With a pinch of salt	Having doubt about truth	सत्यता पर शक होना
39.	Legendary	Very famous	सुप्रसिद्ध
40.	Will O' the wisp	Unreal	अवास्तविक
41.	Ivory tower	Imaginary world	काल्पनिक दुनिया
42.	In a flutter	Excited	उत्साहित