

3.

S P O K E N      E N G L I S H

" Prof. R. K. Bansal while discussing spoken English in India, offers the following comments<sup>13</sup>"

"English as spoken by educated people in India does not differ radically from native English in grammar and vocabulary, but in pronunciation it is different from both British and American English. Even within India there are a large number of regional varieties, each different from the others in certain ways, and retaining to some extent the phonetic patterns of the Indian language spoken in that particular region. It is also true that in every region there are good speakers of English and bad speakers of English. The terms good and bad referring to the degrees of approximation to native English and standard Indian English and also to qualities of clear effective and intelligible speech. It would, however, be better to aim at international intelligibility.

He further mentions the following features that affect the Intelligibility of Indian English.

1. Accent on the wrong syllable of a word.

2. Word ordinarily accented in connected speech left unaccented, this is often accompanied with a very close juncture with the preceding or the following accented word.
3. Substitution of (  $\underset{\square}{d}$  ) for English /  $\underset{\square}{d}$  /
4. Substitution of (v) or (  $v^h$  ) for English /V/
5. Substitution of (v) for English / W /
6. Unfamiliar proper names.
7. Lack of clear articulation.
8. Wrong usage.
9. Use of short (e) for R. P. / eI /
10. Elision of one or more syllables.
11. Use of unaspirated /p/ /t/ /k/ at the beginning of unaccented syllables.
12. Uncommon usage.
13. Mistakes in reading, substitution of another word, omission of a word, omission or addition of uninflectional suffix.
14. Substitution of /S/ for /g/ in inflectional suffixes.
15. Choice by the listener of a word that is more likely in the context.
16. Substitution of /  $\underset{\square}{t}^h$  / or /  $\underset{\square}{t}$  / for English /  $\underset{\square}{t}$  /

17. /ɔ / made too long.

18. Substitution of /g/ for /s/

Keeping in mind the above mentioned features, we designed our test in spoken English to suit the level intended. We have given a set of 20 pairs of words for sound discrimination, 30 words for word stress, 10 sentences to test the weak forms and 20 sentences to test the intonation patterns.

### 3.1 Sound discrimination :

A set of twenty pairs of words were given for sound discrimination. <sup>↑</sup>The list of twenty pairs of <sub>↓</sub> words with correct answers is given below :-

- |    |        |           |   |        |          |
|----|--------|-----------|---|--------|----------|
| 1) | wheat  | /wɪt /    | - | wit    | /wɪt /   |
| 2) | shut   | /ʃʌt /    | - | shirt  | /ʃɜ:t /  |
| 3) | heels  | /hi:lz /  | - | hills  | /hɪlz /  |
| 4) | such   | /sʌtʃ /   | - | search | /sɜ:tʃ / |
| 5) | cheeks | /tʃi:kz / | - | chicks | /tʃɪks / |
| 6) | full   | /fʊl /    | - | fool   | /fu:l /  |
| 7) | leaked | /li:kɪd / | - | licked | /lɪkɪd / |
| 8) | pot    | /pɒt /    | - | port   | /pɔ:t /  |

9) drags	/drægz/	---	drugs	/drɪŋgz/
10) match	/mætʃ/	---	much	/mʌtʃ/
11) sell	/sel/	---	sale	/seɪl/
12) vary	/veəri/	---	weary	/weəri/
13) red	/red/	---	raid	/reɪd/
14) pressure	/preʃə(r)/	----	pleasure	/pleʒə(r)/
15) ledger	/ledʒə(r)/	---	leisure	/leɪʒə(r)/
16) verse	/vɜ:s/	---	worse	/wɜ:s/
17) sent	/sent/	---	saint	/seɪnt/
18) trend	/trend/	---	trained	/treɪnd/
19) little	/lɪtl/	---	battle	/bætl/
20) sudden	/sʌdn/	---	button	/bʌtn/

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**Item No. 1 : wheat - wit**  
is answered correctly by 6% students.

**Item No. 2 : shut - shirt**  
is answered correctly by 56% students.

**Item No. 3 : heels - hills**  
is answered correctly by 22% students.

**Item No. 4 : such - search**  
is answered correctly by 56% students.

**Item No. 5 : cheeks - chicks**  
is answered correctly by 30% students.

- Item No. 6 : full                    + fool  
is answered correctly by 22% students.
- Item No. 7 : leaked                    - licked  
is answered correctly by 10% students.
- Item No. 8 : pot                        - port  
is answered correctly by 36% students.
- Item No. 9 : drags                       - drugs  
is answered correctly by 36% students.
- Item No.10 : match                       - much  
is answered correctly by 72% students.
- Item No.11 : sell                         - sale  
is answered correctly by 42% students.
- Item No.12 : vary                        - weary  
is answered correctly by 14% students.
- Item No.13 : red                         - raid  
is answered correctly by 30% students.
- Item No.14 : pressure                    - pleasure  
is answered correctly by 34% students.
- Item No.15 : ledger                       - leisure  
is answered correctly by 26% students.
- Item No.16 : verse                        - worse  
is answered correctly by 64% students.
- Item No.17 : sent                         - saint  
is answered correctly by 40% students.

Item No. 18 : trend - trained  
is answered correctly by 52% students.

Item No. 19 : little - battle  
is answered correctly by 74% students.

Item No. 20 : sudden - button  
is answered correctly by 70% students.

Item-wise Marks

Item Nos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Answered correctly (out of 100)	6	56	22	56	30	22	10	36	36	72

  

Item Nos.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Answered correctly (out of 100)	42	14	30	34	26	64	40	52	74	70

The above result sheet of sound discrimination shows that the majority of the students have failed in distinction between / i / and / I /, / u / and / u /, / o / and / o /, / e / and / e /, / x / and / x /. At the same time, it is found that the majority of the students failed in using /w/ sound instead of it they have used #v/ sound in 'wheat'. At the same time they failed in using /t/ in 'leaked' and /g/ in 'drags.'

### 3.2 Word Stress

A set of 30 words were given to test word stress.

The following is the list of correct answers.

- |              |              |                 |                |
|--------------|--------------|-----------------|----------------|
| 1) business  | /ˈbɪznɪs/    | 16) affair      | /əˈfeɪə/       |
| 2) village   | /ˈvɪlɪdʒ/    | 17) attack      | /əˈtæk/        |
| 3) chatter   | /ˈtʃætə/     | 18) observe     | /əbˈzɜːv/      |
| 4) result    | /rɪˈzʌlt/    | 19) admit       | /ədˈmɪt/       |
| 5) mother    | /ˈmʌðə/      | 20) yesterday   | /ˈjestədeɪ/    |
| 6) farce     | /ˈfɑːs/      | 21) innocence   | /ɪnˈɒsəns/     |
| 7) castle    | /ˈkɑːsl/     | 22) permanent   | /pəˈmænənt/    |
| 8) cough     | /kɒf/        | 23) manager     | /ˈmænɪdʒə/     |
| 9) watched   | /wɒtʃt/      | 24) afternoon   | /ˌɑːftənʌn/    |
| 10) tomb     | /tʊm/        | 25) recommend   | /ˌrekəˈmɛnd/   |
| 11) theatre  | /ˈθiətə/     | 26) absolutely  | /əbˈsɒlətli/   |
| 12) serious  | /ˈsɪəriəs/   | 27) comfortable | /kəmˈfɜːtəbəl/ |
| 13) valuable | /ˈvæljuəbəl/ | 28) ability     | /əˈbɪləti/     |
| 14) smooth   | /smuːð/      | 29) comparison  | /kəmˈpærɪzn/   |
| 15) argue    | /ˈɑːɡjuː/    | 30) photograph  | /ˈfəʊtəɡrɑːf/  |

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Item No. 1 : 'business'

is answered correctly by 28% students.

Item No. 2 : 'village'

is answered correctly by 30% students.

Item No. 3 : 'chatter'

is answered correctly by 100% students.

- Item No. 4 : 'result'  
is answered correctly by 56% students.
- Item No. 5 : 'mother'  
is answered correctly by 100% students.
- Item No. 6 : 'farce'  
is answered correctly by 90% students.
- Item No. 7 : 'castle'  
is answered correctly by 94% students.
- Item No. 8 : 'cough'  
is answered correctly by 94% students.
- Item No. 9 : 'watched'  
is answered correctly by 96% students.
- Item No. 10 : 'tomb'  
is answered correctly by 96% students.
- Item No. 11 : 'theatre'  
is answered correctly by 96% students.
- Item No. 12 : 'serious'  
is answered correctly by 48% students.
- Item No. 13 : 'valuable'  
is answered correctly by 98% students.
- Item No. 14 : 'smooth'  
is answered correctly by 98% students.
- Item No. 15 : 'argue'  
is answered correctly by 86% students.



- Item No. 16 : 'affair'  
is answered correctly by 80% students.
- Item No. 17 : 'attach'  
is answered correctly by 92% students.
- Item No. 18 : 'observe'  
is answered correctly by 90% students.
- Item No. 19 : 'admit'  
is answered correctly by 2% students.
- Item No. 20 : 'yesterday'  
is answered correctly by 44% students.
- Item No. 21 : 'innocence'  
is answered correctly by 88% students.
- Item No. 22 : 'permanent'  
is answered correctly by 24% students.
- Item No. 23 : 'manager'  
is answered correctly by 86% students.
- Item No. 24 : 'afternoon'  
is answered correctly by 40% students.
- Item No. 25 : 'recommend'  
is answered correctly by 82% students.
- Item No. 26 : 'absolutely'  
is answered correctly by 44% students.
- Item No. 27 : 'comfortable'  
is answered correctly by 64% students.

Item No. 28 : 'ability'

is answered correctly by 0% students.

Item No. 29 : 'comparison'

is answered correctly by 60% students.

Item No. 30 : 'photograph'

is answered correctly by 100% students.

Item-wise Marks

Item Nos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Answered correctly (out of 100)	28	30	100	56	100	90	94	100	96	96
Item Nos.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Answered correctly (out of 100)	96	48	98	98	86	80	92	90	2	44
Item Nos.	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30
Answered correctly (out of 100)	88	24	86	40	82	44	62	00	60	100

The above result sheet of word stress shows that one syllable word is easy for the students to put the stress. But when there are disyllabic or tri-syllabic words. It is found that students have put stress marks on the wrong syllable. The disyllabic word 'admit' is

wrongly uttered. The first syllable is stressed by the majority of the students. Just two students with read it/correct stress. Again the four syllable-word ability is wrongly pronounced by all the students. They have put the stress on the first syllable. It will be seen from the above analysis that the students are unaware of the use of stress in spoken english.

### 3.3 Weak forms

Ten sentences were given to the students to test the use of the weak forms.

The following is the list of ten sentences with correct answers.

1) I'm coming with you.

/aɪm kʌmɪŋ wɪθ ju /

2) That's an old story.

/ðætz ən əld stɔ:ri /

3) There's no need to worry.

/ðerez nə ni:d tə wʌri /

4) **She's packed it neatly.**

/ʃi:z pæktɪt ni:tli /

5) **Which one d'you like?**

/wɪtʃ wʌn dʒu laɪk /

6) **I shall try my best.**

/aɪ ʃəl traɪ maɪ best /

7) **Where was he yesterday ?**

/weəz he wəz he jɛstədeɪ /

8) **Where does she live ?**

/weəz ʃi: dʌz ʃi: li:v /

9) **When can you come ?**

/wɛn kæn ju kʌm /

10) **I shall be back at six.**

/aɪ ʃəl bi:bækət sɪks /

**Item No. 1 : I'm coming with you.**

**is answered correctly by 2% students.**

**Item No. 2 : That's an old story.**

**is answered correctly by 34% students.**

**Item No. 3 : There's no need to worry.**

**is answered correctly by 22% students.**

The rest of the answers have not been answered correctly even by a single student.

In item No.2 and 3 students have failed to make use of the correct weak forms. The students have succeeded in using the correct weak form of the contracted forms. It is observed that the reading of the students is very slow resulting in the failure to make use of the weak forms

#### 3.4 Intonations

Twenty sentences were given to the students for testing their use of intonation patterns.

The list of twenty sentences with correct answers is as follows :-

- 1) What's the time.
- 2) Why are you so late ?
- 3) Who's coming with me ?
- 4) Why don't you listen ?
- 5) Which do you like best ?

- 6) Where does he live ?
- 7) The birds are singing in the trees.
- 8) Both the children are playing outside.
- 9) We' ve been walking through the forest.
- 10) I must get my hair cut.
- 11) May I come in ?
- 12) Are you afraid ?
- 13) Have you time ?
- 14) Can you do it now ?
- 15) Did you have a good holiday ?
- 16) Are you angry with me ?
- 17) Pass the salt please.
- 18) Come again soon ?
- 19) Return them tomorrow.
- 20) You don't believe me, do you ?

Item-wise Marks

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Item Nos.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Answered correctly (out of 100)	94	86	72	84	84	88	100	100	96	94

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Item Nos.	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Answered Correctly (out of 100)	26	28	22	20	26	34	32	92	98	78

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The above result sheet of intonation shows that the students have used falling tone correctly but they have failed in using the rising tone. We may say that, most of them are unaware of the use of these suprasegmental features of English.

0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0-0