

Expansion of Proverbs - Notes

Expansion of Proverbs

Proverbs: A Proverb is a well-known saying that conveys a general truth or that offers advice on life and behaviour, for example: ‘Honesty is the best policy, ‘All that glitters is not gold’. Proverbs are simple in form, yet packed with meaning. Though they consist of short sentences, they contain a lot of wisdom. Proverbs often make use of metaphors to convey their meaning. (Metaphors are comparisons made between two dissimilar things without using the words ‘like’ or ‘as’ to show that one of them has some quality of the other). Another feature of proverbial sayings is irony, or the use of words to convey meanings that are the opposite of what they usually mean.

Expansion of Proverbs: Expansion of proverbs is a meaningful writing task. It involves understanding the meaning of a proverb, what it implies and how it relates to the present time. To expand a proverb, you will have to explain its meaning and elaborate on its significance by using reasoning and giving examples from real life to convey its truth and wisdom clearly to the reader. A good paragraph written for expansion must have 1) unity of thought; (2) order; (3) coherence; (4) variety and (5) Expansion.

Some guidelines for expansion of proverbs:

- In the first instance, read the given proverb. Think about the proverb and understand its meaning, significance and implications.
- Think of one or two examples from real life, from books you have read and films you have watched or from other sources.
- Arrange your thoughts in the logical sequence and write the piece, using simple language and keeping to the usually allowed one-page limit.
- Make the opening and conclusion interesting and impressive.

Some examples of Expansion of Proverbs:

1. All that glitters is not gold.
2. Make hay while the Sun shines
3. Honesty is the best policy
4. A stitch in time saves nine.
5. Haste makes waste (or) Slow and steady wins the race.
6. Necessity is the mother of invention.

Haste makes waste (or) Slow and steady wins the race.

When we do any work, we should be very careful. We should not be in a haste/ hurry. We should work slowly and steadily to get better result. For example, while climbing a tall tree or a hill, we should be very careful. Any small negligence or haste will make us slip and fall down. The story of 'hare and tortoise' we learnt in our childhood teaches a very good lesson in this regard. In the story, the tortoise walks slowly and steadily. It wins the race with confidence. Whereas the hasty but lazy hare finally loses the race with its over-confidence. Similarly, the student who reads regularly from the beginning can easily pass the examination and get good marks. But the student who reads hastily just before the examinations, may fail. Hence, in every walk of life, to reach our goals, we should make our efforts continuously and carefully.

Strike while the iron is hot. (Or) Make hay while the sun shines

(Means = Utilise the opportunity when it comes on your way) (Hay = dried grass)

The proverb tells us that when an opportunity comes in our way, we should make use of it without wasting time. Hay means dried grass like straw. It has to be stored for the cattle. We have to dry the grass and make the hay while the Sun is shining to store it for the future. Once we lose the opportunity, we cannot dry the grass in the winter or rainy season. In the same way, when the iron is hot only, we can bend it into any shape by striking on it. If it is cooled, we cannot bend it. These examples tell us that we must make use of a good opportunity when it knocks our door. If we miss it, we cannot get the same opportunity back. We have to observe the bees which store the honey for future and the ants which gather their food for future and like that. During the school days or college days, the student has to pay attention to his studies and do hard work. If he neglects his studies during this period, he will not get better results and will not get another opportunity to prove his worth. So, we must make use of the available time and opportunities well and do the right thing at the proper time.

Honesty is the best policy

Honesty means being truthful and fair in thought, speech and action. The lives of great men across the world like Mahatma Gandhi, Jesus Christ, Abraham Lincoln, etc., prove that their greatness was due to their honest nature. History tells us that honest people are always respected. In the modern age also people like Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam, Anna Hazare, etc., are honored for their honesty and not for their wealth and power. However rich and wealthy they may be, people do not honor dishonest men. Honesty gives courage to face any difficulties. Hence, honest people can achieve any great things in their lives in straight and fair manner. On the other way, dishonest people are cowards. They always want to achieve some thing with unfair means or corrupt methods. Ultimately, they fail in life. Though a dishonest student manages to get marks by copying, he will not succeed in life. An honest person is remembered even after his death. A dishonest person is hated even during his life-time. Hence, honesty is the most important policy one has to follow through his entire life.

All that glitters is not gold (or) Appearances are deceptive

Generally, people give value to the external appearances. But the external appearance cannot be always reliable. For example, Gold is a precious metal and it shines brightly. But, just because some other metals also shine, they cannot be as valuable as gold. That is, all that glitters is not gold. People get deceived by the outward appearances. A person who appears very innocent may prove cruel. A dress which appears very costly because of its over shining may actually be a cheap one. Hence, we must try to know the inner quality of a person or a thing to assess his/ its value. We must not fall in the trap of external attraction.

A Stitch in time saves nine

This proverb tells us the importance of being careful at the right time. When we observe any defect or mistake in anything, we must try to correct/ repair it in the initial stage itself. Otherwise, the problem becomes bigger and unsolvable. By being careful in small things, we can avoid major dangers. For example, if a cloth is torn little, we must immediately attend to it and stitch it. Otherwise, the tear of the cloth becomes bigger and cannot be repaired. Any symptoms related to ill-health or disease should be attended carefully. Otherwise, the diseases may aggravate and take life itself. Similarly, if a child or a student finds any defect, some bad qualities, he should correct them immediately; otherwise it will be difficult to get rid of the bad qualities at later period.

Necessity is the mother of invention

The proverb tells us that the need of a thing forces us to think actively. Solutions for problems can be found out if only we use our brains. But we use them only when there is need. This results in the invention of a new thing. Most of the scientific inventions in human history are answers to some pressing need. Primitive man's need for food forced him to shape weapons for hunting. His need and wish to travel extensively across the world resulted in invention of steam boat and later electric motor. Most medicines are the results of the need for the cure to fatal diseases. Thus necessity is the mother of invention.

Work is Worship

The general view is that work is done in the office, the factory or the fields and worship is done in a temple or a church or a mosque. The feeling is that we work to earn money and we worship to get the blessings of God. However, the proverb 'Work is Worship' combines the idea of work and worship. Work, the dictionary says, refers to physical or mental effort spent to produce or accomplish something. And the word 'worship' comes from the old English word 'worth-ship', which means giving worth to something. So when the wise ones said 'work is worship', they meant doing what we do with the sense of worthiness or respect. When we understand that all work – big or small – is valuable and do it with reverence, then our work becomes worship. Work is worship, thus, speaks about the right attitude towards work.

All great people accomplished noble deeds, discovered new things, invented new products only because of their right attitude towards work. Edison, for example, held a world record of 1093 patents for inventions. All these were possible because of his worshipful attitude towards his work. The mother at home works with the same attitude. Whether it is sweeping or cleaning the utensils or preparing food, she does it with love and care. Cooking, cleaning, sweeping may be lowly tasks but the mother with her worshipful outlook towards work changes daily chores into joyful jobs. Thus, it becomes clear that work done with the sense of worthiness or respect is worship.

An Idle Brain is the Devil's Workshop

The proverb 'An idle brain is the devil's workshop' is from H. G. Bohn's, "Hand-Book of Proverbs," (1855). The word idle comes from the old English word '*idle*' which means 'empty, void, useless'.

The proverb has two key phrases: idle brain and devil's workshop. When one is idle, he or she is not working or is not active or is doing nothing or is passing time aimlessly. The person is thus lazy and without purpose.

An idle brain means that the person is mentally slothful. The brain has no work to do and as such gets easily distracted. In such a situation, the brain becomes the workshop of wrong ideas and thoughts.

The story of the '*Idle Monkey and the Wedge*' from the Panchatantra is a fine example of the proverb. Long ago, a merchant was building a temple in the middle of his garden. The workers partly sawed a log of wood and fixed a wedge in it so that it does not close up and left for lunch. An idle monkey was watching this and having nothing to do got down from the tree and pulled the wedge. The wedge came off and trapped monkey into the rift of the log. The monkey was killed instantly.

Thus it is important to keep the mind constructively occupied so that it will become God's workshop. The proverb however does not refer to those moments when we spend time leisurely doing nothing.

Variety is the Spice of Life

The *keyword* in the proverb is spice.

We all know spice is a vegetable material of many kinds, fragrant or aromatic and pungent to the taste, as pepper, cinnamon, nutmeg, mace, allspice, ginger, cloves, etc., which are used in cookery and to flavor sauces, pickles. Spice adds flavour and taste to food. As such, food without spice is bland and usually tasteless.

What is true of food is true of life too. Variety, like spice, enriches or alters the quality of life in a small but significant degree. It gives zest, a mild flavoring and more importantly a relish, a hearty enjoyment of life. A change in routine, a new approach, a new idea, a new venture or adventure, a vacation or an avocation, a new hobby or a new pet or a game, all add flavour to life. Else life will be dull and monotonous.

We all need healthy change in order to avoid becoming mechanical. Already most of our daily routines have made us automatons. We have to come out of the rigmarole, once in a while and feel alive and human. This is possible when we take a detour from the beaten track. A word of caution however is that just as too much of spice can spoil the taste of food, so also too much variety can, in fact, hamper the quality of life.

How to Write a Proverb Expansion or Expansion of an idea?

Expansion of an idea or expansion of a proverb is simple and straightforward. It involves 5 easy steps. They are:

Step 1: Understand the symbol of the words in the proverb: Most proverbs or ideas are symbolic. The name of place or animal or thing or person stands as a symbol of some quality. We have to try to understand that in the context of the proverb.

For example take the proverb, ‘Rome was not built in a day’. Here the noun ‘Rome’ is the name of a place. We also (should) know that Rome was a great city. So what does Rome stand for? It stands for Greatness or success. (Remember it was a great city).

Or take the example of ‘All that glitters is not gold’. Here we have the noun ‘gold’. It is the name of a thing. We know that gold is a precious metal. So what does gold stand for? It stands for precious.

Step 2: Substitute the meaning in the idea or the proverb: Take the two previous examples.

‘Rome was not built in a day’ and ‘All that glitters is not gold’. Now substitute the symbols we found out earlier in the sentences. What do we have?

1. ‘Greatness or success was not built in a day’
2. ‘All that glitters is not precious’

The proverb is now decoded and ready for understanding.

Step 3: Look for a story or anecdote or example or illustration: Now that you have understood what the proverb stands for or what the proverb means, we should look for a suitable example to illustrate it.

Where do we get these stories? There are plenty of them. Aesop's fables are ideal. So are the tales of India, the Panchatantra.

We can also look for example from today's world. We could, for example, for the proverb 'Rome was not built in a day', talk about the effort put in by Barack Obama to achieve greatness, and that it took many years to build it, that it did not happen overnight.

Step 4: Look for similar proverbs or ideas: "Patience, persistence and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success" by Napoleon Hill is similar to 'Rome was not built in a day'; so is the proverb 'Do not judge the book by its cover' similar to 'All that glitters is not precious'.

Step 5: Sum up the paragraph: Use summing up words or phrases to indicate that you have finished the expansion and intend to sum it up. You could use 'Thus' or 'in fine' or 'So' or 'The proverb advises that' and let the readers know that you are signing off.

So we have 5 Steps on 'How to do expansion of an idea or expansion of a proverb':

Step 1: Understand the symbol of the words in the proverb

Step 2: Substitute the meaning in the idea or the proverb

Step 3: Look for a story or anecdote or example or illustration

Step 4: Look for similar proverbs or ideas

Step 5: Sum up the paragraph

377 common IDIOMS and their meanings

An IDIOM is an expression or manner of speaking that's used in common parlance. IDIOMS are culture specific and may be based on past history not necessarily evident in the modern world. Understanding where the IDIOM comes from will help to understand its meaning.

IDIOM	MEANING
Acid test	Proves the effectiveness of something.
Actions speak louder than words	People's intentions can be judged better by what they do than what they say.
Add insult to injury	To further a loss with mockery or indignity; to worsen an unfavourable situation.
After the watershed	A time when after which programmes for older audiences may be aired on TV.
Against the clock	Being rushed and having little time to complete something.
Ahead of time	Something that happens early or before it is supposed to.
All ears	Awaiting an explanation.
An arm and a leg	Very expensive or costly. A large amount of money.
Around the clock	At any time of the day or night
Around the corner	Will happen soon.
As time goes by	The passing of one moment to the next.
At the drop of a hat	Without any hesitation; instantly.
Back to basics	An approach that uses traditional ideas that have previously worked.
Back to the drawing board	When an attempt fails and it's time to start all over.
Bad apple	Troublemaker or undesirable person in a group.
Ball is in your court	It is up to you to make the next decision or take the next step.
Barking up the wrong tree	Looking in the wrong place. Accusing the wrong person.
Be glad to see the back of	Be happy when a person leaves.
Beat around the bush	Avoiding the main topic. Not speaking directly about the issue.
Beat the clock	Do something quickly before it's too late.
Bee in one's bonnet	Carrying an idea that's constantly in your thoughts.
Behind the times	Being old-fashioned.
Bells and whistles	Lots of desirable features.
Best of both worlds	Enjoying the advantage of two things simultaneously.
Best thing since sliced bread	A good invention or innovation. A good idea or plan.
Better late than never	It is better to do something late than not at all.
Bide one's time	Waiting for further developments before taking action or making decisions.
Big cheese	Influential person
Bird in the hand is worth two in the bush	Better to be satisfied with what you have than risk losing it by trying to get something better.
Bite off more than you can chew	To take on a task that is way too big.
Black and blue	Badly bruised.
Black and white	Take everything into consideration and over simply. Judge everything good or bad.
Black as night	Very dark and hard to see.
Black eye	Bruise around the eye.
Black market	Where goods are illegally bought and sold for profit.
Black out	Darken by turning off or dimming the lights. Lose consciousness.
Black sheep	Undesirable member of a group.
Blackball	Exclude or ostracise someone socially. Reject someone.
Blacklist	Exclude someone.
Blackmail	Extort or take money from someone by threatening to use their secrets against them.
Blessing in disguise	Something good that isn't recognised as such at first.
Blind date	Pre-arranged social interaction between people who have never met.
Blood red	Description of something with a deep red colour.
Blood, sweat & tears	Something that requires a lot of effort and hard work.
Blow a fuse	Suddenly get very angry, perhaps over something unexpected.
Blow up in the face	A plan or project that suddenly fails.
Blue blood	From noble, aristocratic or wealthy family.
Blue collar	Working in a manual labour job.
Blue in the face	Try hard to win an agreement but usually unsuccessful.
Blue ribbon	Superior quality or distinction. The best of a group.
Bolt from the blue	Unexpected bad news.
Bookworm	Someone who reads a lot.
Born with a silver spoon in one's mouth	Born into a rich and affluent family.

IDIOM	MEANING
Bottom falls out	A plan or project that fails.
Brainstorm	Develop or think of new ideas.
Bread-winner	Person that is the primary source of income for a family.
Bring home the bacon	Earn a living.
Broken watch is right twice a day	When something is lucky or successful but undeserving.
Buckle down	Working hard with determination and full attention.
Bun in the oven	Pregnant.
Burn the midnight oil	To work late into the night, alluding to the time before electric lighting.
Butter up	Flatter someone, usually because you want something from them.
By degrees	Something happens or develops gradually or little by little.
By the skin of your teeth	Only just succeed.
Call it a day (or night)	Stop doing something for a while or until the next day (or night).
Calling time	Deciding to end something.
Carry the torch for	Having strong feelings for someone who cannot be yours.
Cash cow	Dependable source of income.
Cat burglar	Thief who climbs into buildings.
Catch someone at a bad time	When it is inconvenient.
Catch someone red-handed	Catch someone in the act of committing a crime or doing something they shouldn't.
Chance one's arm	Deciding to do something even though the chances of success are slim or unknown.
Chase rainbows	Try to achieve something that is very difficult, impossible or very desirable.
Chase your tail	Spend a lot of time and energy but achieve nothing.
Cheesy	Tacky, silly, inauthentic or cheap.
Clock-in/clock-out	Record the time of arrival and the time of departure.
Close to home	A comment that is true and makes you uncomfortable.
Cold shoulder	Pay no attention to.
Coming of age	When something develops completely and reached maturity. When a child becomes an adult.
Cook someone's goose	Spoil the person's chance of success.
Copypat	Someone who copies the work of another.
Costs an arm and a leg	When something is very expensive.
Couch potato	Lazy person who watches too much TV.
Cover a lot of ground	Complete a lot of work or a wide range of things.
Crack of dawn	Very early in the morning. The first moments of sunrise.
Cross that bridge when you come to it	Deal with a problem if and when it becomes necessary, not before.
Crunch time	When an important decision needs to be made by.
Cry over spilt milk	Complain about a loss from the past.
Curiosity killed the cat	Being inquisitive can lead you into an unpleasant or dangerous situation.
Cut corners	When something is done quickly, and typically badly, to save money.
Cut one's own throat	Doing something that will cause your own failure or downfall.
Cut the mustard	To succeed; to come up to expectations; adequate enough to compete or participate.
Cut to the chase	Getting to the point.
Day to day	Part of a usual routine.
Days are numbered	Expected to be in a role or to die soon.
Dead duck	Plan or event that has failed or is certain to fail and therefore not worth discussing.
Dead in the water	Plan or project that has ceased to function and is not expected to re-activate.
Dead wood	People or things that are no longer useful or necessary.
Deep down	Describing what a person really feels deep inside them
Deliver the goods	Do what is expected or required.
Devil's Advocate	To present a counter argument.
Do time (serve time)	Spend time in prison.
Donkey's years	A very long period of time.
Don't count your chickens before they've hatched	Don't make plans for something that might not happen.
Don't give up the day job	You are not very good at something. You could definitely not do it professionally.
Don't put all your eggs in one basket	Don't make everything dependent on only one thing.
Double date	Social interaction that involves two couples.
Drastic times call for drastic measures	When you are extremely desperate you need to take drastic actions.
Drawing a blank	Get no response from someone when you ask them a question or to have no answer yourself.
Dropout	Stop attending school before it is time.
Dwell on the past	Thinking too much about something that happened in the past.
Eager beaver	Enthusiastic and hard worker.
Easy as ABC	Very simple or easy.
Eat, sleep & breathe something	Being so enthusiastic and passionate about something that you think about it all the time.

IDIOM	MEANING
Egg head	Studious and academic person.
Elbow room	Enough space to move or work in.
Eleventh hour	At the very last minute or just in time.
Elvis has left the building	The show has come to an end. It's all over.
Every cloud has a silver lining	Be optimistic, even difficult times will lead to better days. Good can come from a bad situation.
Explore all avenues	Investigating or examining every option.
Eye-catching	Tending to attract attention.
Fallen in love	Start feeling love towards someone.
Far cry from	Very different from.
Feeling blue	Feeling depressed or disconnected.
Feeling under the weather	Feeling unwell.
Fever pitch	When a feeling is very intense and exciting.
Fill in the blanks	Supply missing words or information.
First in, best dressed	The opportunity is afforded to the first to arrive or present themselves.
First out of the gate	Being the first one to make a start at something
Fish out of water	Feeling uncomfortable in unfamiliar surroundings
Foot in the door	Small but good start with the possibility of a bright future.
For the time being	An action or state will continue into the future but is temporary.
From now on	From this time forward.
From time to time	Occasionally or not very often.
Full of beans	Excited or very energetic and lively.
Full of the joys of spring	Very happy and full of energy.
Getting sacked (or axed, or fired)	To lose your job.
Getting the show on the road	Putting a plan or idea into action.
Give the benefit of the doubt	Believe someone's statement, without proof.
Give the green light	Provide permission to proceed.
Go belly up	Fail completely.
Going places	Demonstrating talent and ability that will lead to success.
Golden boy	Young man idolised for a great skill, typically in sport.
Golden handshake	Large sum of money given to someone when they retire from a company.
Golden opportunity	A very good opportunity that may never present itself again.
Grass is always greener on the other side	The alternative solution may seem better even if that isn't always the case.
Grease someone's palm	Give someone money in order to persuade them to do something dishonest.
Green thumb	Ability to make plants grow or be good at gardening.
Green with envy	Extremely jealous or full of envy.
Grey area	Unclear or undefined.
Hanging on by fingernails	Continuing to do something in a very difficult situation.
Hard as nails	Without sentiment or sympathy for anyone.
Hard time	Something that is difficult or to suffer hardship.
Having one's heart set on something	Possessing a determination to achieve something.
Head in the clouds	Having unrealistic or impractical ideas.
Head over heels in love	Very much in love with someone.
Hear it on the grapevine	Hear something through informal or unofficial means, like gossip.
Heart is in the right place	Having good intentions, even if the results may not be impressive.
Here today, gone tomorrow	When desirable things, such as money or happiness, are temporary.
High time	When something should have been done already and is overdue.
Hit the big time	To become successful.
Hit the books	Begin studying hard.
Hit the nail on the head	Do or say something exactly right.
Hit the panic button	Act quickly and without thinking in reaction to an unexpected event.
Hit the road	Begin travelling or leave.
Hit the sack (or sheets, or hay)	Go to bed.
Hold the fort	Have responsibility for something or care about someone while others are away or out.
Honest as the day is long	Someone that is trustworthy and honest.
Hot potato	Speak of a current issue which many people are talking about and which is usually disputed.
Hour of need	When someone really needs something – their last chance.
In due course	Everything will happen when it is supposed to or at the appropriate time.
In one's own time	Taking as long as you want to complete something or completing something at your own pace.
In someone's black book	Be in disgrace or disfavour with someone.
In the bag	Something that is assured or a guaranteed success.
In the black	In profit.

IDIOM	MEANING
In the blink of an eye (or an instant)	Something that happens very quickly.
In the heat of the moment	Overwhelmed by what is happening in the moment.
In the interim	Between two events or something that is temporary.
In the long run	Over a period of time.
In the nick of time.	Just before it is too late.
In the red	In debt with your bank. To have a negative bank balance or to owe money to the bank.
In the right place at the right time	When something happens fortuitously or when given an unexpected opportunity.
In the wrong place at the wrong time	When something unlucky happens that would not normally have happened.
In tune with someone (on the same wavelength)	Have the same ideas and be in agreement with someone else.
It takes two to tango	Actions or communications need more than one person.
Itchy feet	Strong impulse to travel or go somewhere.
Judge a book by its cover	Judge something primarily on appearance.
Jump on the bandwagon	Join a popular trend or activity.
Keep something at bay	Keep something away or prevent something from happening.
Keeping up appearances	Maintaining an outward show of prosperity or well-being while hiding your difficulties.
Keeping your finger on the pulse	Being constantly aware of current developments.
Kept in the dark	Not knowing the secrets or truth.
Kill time	Do something whilst waiting.
Kill two birds with one stone	Accomplish two different things at the same time.
Landslide victory	Overwhelming victory.
Last straw	The final problem in a series of problems that leads to a bad thing happening.
Laugh a minute	Someone or something that is very funny.
Learn by rote	Learn something by memorising it without thought to what is being learnt.
Learn something off by heart	Memorise so well, that it can be written or recited without thinking.
Learn the ropes	Learn how to do a job or task properly.
Lemon	New vehicle that has many faults.
Let me see the colour of your money	Prove that you can afford something.
Let sleeping dogs lie	Leave a situation undisturbed, since it would otherwise result in trouble or complications.
Let slip through fingers	Failing to obtain or retain a good opportunity.
Let the cat out of the bag	Share information that was previously concealed.
Lick one's wounds	Trying to regain confidence after a defeat.
Lightning fast	Very fast.
Lights are on but nobody is home	Someone is stupid or lacking intelligence.
Like clockwork	Happens at very regular times or intervals without fail.
Like there's no tomorrow	Do something fast or energetic, as if it were the last opportunity to do so.
Lining up all the ducks in a row	Being well organised in preparation for something.
Living beyond your means	Spending more than you can afford.
Living in an ivory tower	Living a lifestyle that saves or obscures you from real world issues.
Living on the breadline	Having very little income.
Long arm of the law	Far-reaching power of the authorities.
Long time no see	Not seen since long ago.
Look on the bright side	View an unpleasant situation in a positive light.
Love at first sight	Start feeling love towards someone the first time you see them.
Lovey-dovey	Making an excessive display of affection.
Lump in your throat	Tight feeling in the throat because of an emotion like sadness, pride or gratitude.
Make a long story short	Come to the point without superfluous or unnecessary details.
Make my day	Something that makes me very happy or satisfies me.
Make or break	Circumstances causing total success or total failure.
Make the grade	Be satisfactory or at an accepted level.
Make time	Find time to do something as a priority.
Makes your flesh crawl	Something that makes you feel disgusted or nervous.
Making a go of it	Attempting to succeed at something.
Making good time	Completing something faster than expected.
Making headway	Making progress in what you are trying to do.
Match made in heaven	Relationship that is likely to be happy and successful.
Method to my madness	Despite one's approach seeming random, there actually is structure to it.
Mile a minute	Happens very quickly.
Miss the boat	Miss a chance or opportunity.
Monkey business	Mischievous or deceitful behaviour.
Month of Sundays	A very long period of time.
Murphy's law	Anything that can go wrong will go wrong.

IDIOM	MEANING
Never in a million years	Will never happen.
No time like the present	The belief it is better to do something right away instead of waiting.
No time to lose	Start something right away, otherwise it won't be finished on time.
Not letting grass grow under your feet	Not delaying in getting something done.
Not letting moss grow over	Doing something now or without delay.
Not playing with a full deck	Lacking intelligence.
Now and then (or again)	Occasionally.
Now or never	Something that should be done now or it will never be done.
Off colour	Unwell.
Off one's rocker	Crazy; demented; out of one's mind; in a confused or befuddled state of mind; senile.
Off to a flying start	Something that is immediately successful or has begun well.
Old hand	Person with a lot of experience in something.
Old school	Holding ideas that were popular and important in the past but which are no longer so.
On the ball	When someone understands the situation well or is doing well.
On the brain	Thinking or talking about something constantly.
On the rocks	Relationship experiencing problems.
On time	Not being late or something happening at the expected time.
Once in a blue moon	Happens very rarely or once in a lifetime.
Once upon a time	Something that happened a long time ago.
Only time will tell	The truth, answer or result, will be revealed at some future point.
Out of the blue	Appear suddenly from nowhere and without warning.
Out of the red	No longer in debt.
Out of time	No time left to do something or a set time has been reached.
Paint the town red	Go out and have a really good time at a party.
Pass with flying colours	Pass with a high score.
Penny for your thoughts	A way of asking what someone is thinking.
Picture paints a thousand words	Visual presentations are far more descriptive than words.
Piece of cake	A job, task or other activity that is easy or simple.
Pitch black	Very dark with zero or almost zero visibility.
Place in the sun	A position that provides you all the success and happiness you want.
Pop the question	Propose marriage to someone.
Pot calling the kettle black	Hypocritically criticise or accuse someone else is as guilty as the person criticising.
Pressed for time	Being rushed or not having enough time to complete something.
Proud as a peacock	Very proud
Pull the plug	Terminate or discontinue something.
Pull wool over other people's eyes	Deceive someone into thinking well of them.
Pulling out all the stops	Doing everything you can to make something happen.
Punch above one's weight	Performing beyond your ability.
Puppy love	Temporary infatuation between young people.
Put it in black and white	Write down for confirmation or evidence.
Put your thinking cap on	Engage your mind and think in a serious manner.
Rags to riches	Becoming very rich whilst starting very poor.
Raining cats and dogs	Raining very heavily.
Raise the white flag	Accept defeat and surrender to the other party.
Raring to go	Being very eager or enthusiastic about the idea.
Rat race	Exhausting and repetitive routine.
Red flag	Signal or indication that something is not working properly or correctly.
Red herring	Unimportant matter that misleads and draws attention away.
Red hot	New and exciting, creating much demand.
Red in the face	Embarrassed.
Red tape	Set of rules and/or regulations that slow or stop progress.
Red-eye	Journey that leaves late in the night and arrives early in the morning.
Road hog	Dangerous driver.
Roll out the red carpet	Greet a person with great respect and give them a big, warm welcome.
Sail through something	Being successful as something without difficulty.
Save time	Do something quickly or in a way that allow time for other things.
School of hard knocks	Learning through difficult experiences, as opposed to formal, classroom education.
School of thought	Particular philosophy or way of thinking about something.
Schoolboy error	Very basic or foolish mistake.
Seeing eye to eye	Two or more people agree on something.
Seeing red	React with uncontrollable rage.

IDIOM	MEANING
Sell ice to Eskimos	Persuade people to go against their best interests or to accept something unnecessary.
Shelf life	The expected duration of lifespan of something (typically food, drink or medicine).
Show of hands	Raising hands to vote about something.
Shown the red card	Dismissed or told to leave.
Silver screen	Film industry
Single file	Line of people with one person standing behind another.
Sink or swim	Fail or succeed.
Sinking teeth into something	Doing something with a lot of energy and enthusiasm.
Sit on the fence	Unable or unwilling choose or make a decision.
Skip class	Not go to school when you should.
Sleeping (or silent) partner	Person who has put money into a business or venture but who is not involved in running it.
Slice of the pie	Share of something, such as money, profits, etc.
Smash hit	A big success.
Snowed under	Having too much to do.
Sooner or later	Something is certain to happen but it isn't known when exactly.
Sour grapes	Pretending to dislike something you cannot have.
Spanner in the works	Suddenly disrupt something by introducing something unexpected or unwanted.
Speak of the devil	When the person you have just been talking about arrives.
Speaks volumes	Express a reaction without words.
Spill the beans	Reveal a secret.
Standing ground	Maintaining your position
Standing the test of time	Something that lasts or continues to work well for a long time.
Steal someone's thunder	Take the credit for something someone else did.
Stiff upper lip	Not showing emotions.
Storm in a teacup	Exaggerate a problem.
Straight from the horse's mouth	From the authoritative source.
Stuck in a time warp	Not changed for a very long time, when everything else around has.
Swallow one's pride	Accepting something humiliating or embarrassing.
Sweet tooth	Liking for sweet-tasting foods.
Take each day as it comes	Deal with things as and when they happen.
Take with a grain (or pinch) of salt	Not to take what someone says too seriously. Be sceptical about something.
Taste of your own medicine	Something happens to you, or is done to you, that you have done to someone else.
Teacher's pet	Teacher's favourite student.
The big time	The top level of a profession
The moment of truth	When an important decision is made or the truth about something is revealed.
The ship has sailed	A particular opportunity has passed and is no longer available.
The time is ripe	The right or most opportune moment to do something.
Thinking on your feet	Adjusting quickly to change and making fast decisions.
This day and age	These or modern times.
Tickled pink	Very pleased, thrilled or delighted about something.
Tie the knot	Get married.
Time after time (time and time again)	Do something repeatedly
Time flies	When time passes quickly.
Time for a change	Stop what you are doing and start doing something else.
Time heals all wounds (or time is a great healer)	Feelings of hurt (usually emotional) will go away after some time has passed.
Time is money	Time is a valuable commodity. Payment is needed before doing something.
Time is of the essence	When meeting a deadline is very important or critical.
Time of one's life	A time when someone is enjoying themselves.
Time on one's hands (or side)	When you can afford to wait before doing or achieving something.
Tongue-tied	Difficulty in expressing yourself because of nervousness or embarrassment.
Too many chiefs and not enough Indians	Too many people telling others what to do.
Too much (free) time on one's hand	When someone doesn't have enough to do.
Top banana	Most important person in a group.
Top dog	Most important person.
Tough cookie	Very determined person.
Tricks of the trade	Clever or expert way of doing something.
True colours	Someone's actual character.
Turn back the hands of time	Reverse something or go back to a time in the past.
University of life	Daily life and work where you learn more than you would through formal education.
Until hell freezes over	Something will never happen, no matter how hard or long you try for it to.
Up in smoke	Something that ends before getting a result.

IDIOM	MEANING
Waiting in the wings	Waiting for an opportunity to take action.
Walk out on someone	Leave a partner and end the relationship.
Wasting time	Doing something with no purpose.
Well-oiled machine	Unit of people or a group of things working well together.
Whale of a time	Enjoying something thoroughly.
White as a sheet (or ghost)	In a state of great fear or anxiety.
White collar	Officer worker.
White elephant	Expensive item that's costly to maintain and not particularly useful.
White lie	Little or harmless lie told to be polite and avoid hurting someone's feelings.
Whitewash	Cover up or gloss over faults.
Whole nine yards	Everything. All of it.
With bells on	When you are delighted and eager to go somewhere.
Wooden spoon	Imaginary prize for the last person in a race.
Works like a charm	Works very well or as expected.
Wouldn't be caught dead	Would never like to do something.
Year in, year out	Happens every year for many years in a row.
Yellow-bellied	Coward
You can't teach an old dog new tricks	People used to doing things a certain way are often unable to change their ways.
Your guess is as good as mine	Not knowing the answer.

UNIT – III ESSAY WRITING

INTRODUCTION

As we all know, essay is a written composition in which the author shares his / her knowledge about a certain topic, reveals to the reader his / her perspective on the issue being discussed, and offers criticism and comments on the situation. The writing of an essay, therefore, requires the author to display not only his / her knowledge of the subject but also the maturity of vision, clarity of thought, and felicity of expression. Besides these, the author should also be able to weave together the different parts of an idea into a thread of unity. However, before taking up the task of writing an essay, let us see the different types of essays we generally come across.

TYPES OF ESSAYS

The word 'essay' comes from the French expression 'essai', which means an effort or a verbal sketch which reveals the author's perspective on a given subject. Certain distinct features of different types of essays will be discussed in the following sections.

Argumentative Essays

An essay that is written to contend an established view is argumentative in nature and is known as *argumentative essay*. In an argumentative essay, the author is often keen to challenge the established notion. Because of this, such essays are also known as *point-of-view essays*. While writing an essay of this type, we need to establish the argument that is reason-based and not governed by our subjective opinions or emotions. In such an essay, it is always helpful to state the rationale behind the existing idea before suggesting the alternative view.

Analytical Essays

An *analytical essay* often reviews a book, movie, topic, situation, or a given text by bringing to the fore its subtle nuances. While writing an analytical essay, we need to carefully observe the finer aspects of a work of art, situation, text, book, or topic and highlight all its subtleties. In an analytical essay, the data and material collected play an important role as they often form the basis of an analysis.

Descriptive Essays

A *descriptive essay* is written to get the reader the specific and concrete details of a situation or an object. In descriptive essays, the author primarily harps on his / her senses to help the reader visualize, feel, or enjoy the object of description. Subjectively written at times, descriptive essays are quite often a reflection of the author's personality.

Expository Essays

Unlike an argumentative essay, an *expository essay* is meant to explain a topic without giving the author's opinion. It is essentially designed to convey a piece of information with the reader so that he / she comes to know about a situation, topic, fact, or state. The tone of an expository essay is often detached, objective, and matter of fact as rather than establishing the author's point of view, it is meant to impart to the reader the information and knowledge that the author possesses.

Reflective/ Philosophical Essays

A *reflective* or *philosophical essay* is meant to discuss a profound and deep issue. In such essays, the authors discuss universal human issues, such as life, death, love, faith, truth, etc. Since the subject matter of a philosophical essay is universal, the authors rise above the immediate and mundane, universalizing the personal.

Characteristic features of an essay

Though different types of essays can be written in a variety of ways, following are some of the characteristic features of a well written essay:

1. A good essay is the result of a *careful planning and selection of material*. Since an essay relates to a specific situation, problem, or fact, it selects the matter that is required to be selected and rejects what is redundant. Hence, good essays are never produced abruptly but sculpted with careful consideration and thought.
2. A good essay is *comprehensive in its approach and vision*. A well written essay highlights all the aspects related to the issue under discussion by highlighting the various aspects of the problem or issue.
3. Though an essay is a *reflection of the author's perspective* and at times also throws light on his / her personality, it is considered most mature and relevant when written in an objective and detached manner.
4. A good essay is normally *well balanced* and not lopsided. A well crafted essay strikes a balance in its different parts and a good writer of essays gives due importance to each of its various parts.
5. *Coherence* is another feature of a good essay as the different parts of an essay are well coalesced into one another. A good passage, rather than focusing on any individual aspect of the problem, always creates the impact of one organic whole on the reader.
6. A good essay reflects *consistency and logical sequence of ideas* in a composed and controlled manner. In a well written essay, exaggerations and hyperboles have no role to play.
7. A good essay is always written without ambiguities.
8. The style of a good essay is direct, simple, vigorous, and lucid.
9. Just like the other components of an essay, its title is also chosen very carefully.

Argumentative Essay:

Today's children play more on the phone than on the field

Children of the twenty-first century have their playmates, playground and the game itself on the palm of their hand. They no longer have to step out of the house to have fun. This habit, incidentally, is on the rise in households where every child has access to a smart phone. This video gaming or virtual playing is becoming harmful in several aspects. This essay tries to establish the fact that children today play more on the phone than on the field, and this habit is, in the final analysis, dangerous. Though it is generally believed that virtual gaming enhances logical reasoning and cognitive abilities, scientific studies prove that a decrease in physical activities have led to serious issues.

Virtual games are addictive

When left to themselves, whether alone or with a couple of friends, children instantly log on to Wi-Fi networks via their smart phones to play online games or ones already installed. Though they sit together while playing, each child is isolated, immersed in his or her own world of gaming. They lose track of time and even forego food to complete a level or earn a prize, virtually. They waste time, money and, most importantly, their health.

Virtual games are time-consuming

On an average, it is noted that a child spends at least three hours on the phone, and many children fake sickness and other health conditions to escape homework. Others really fall sick and undergo mental, psychological and health issues. Students are strategically driven into social networking sites where they make friends and then rival each other on gaming platforms.

Children confuse virtual games with reality

There have been recent instances of violence in schools, and students looking at responsibilities as burdens. They complain to parents of constant nagging about studying, writing and the pressures of school life. They become emotionally vulnerable and find help from unreliable sources. When money is involved in these gaming activities, it becomes all the more dangerous. While children learn sharing, leadership qualities and responsibilities while playing physical games, virtual games confuse them and cause problems for people living with them. Children enjoy the instant gratification they achieve in the virtual world and find it difficult to face challenges in the real world.

Thus, the above statements have substantiated that children play on the phone more than on the field and this has detrimental effects on them. Though it may now appear like an ordinary issue, when one thinks of a generation that grows up on virtual gaming, the consequences are quite alarming.

Analytical Essay:

School Uniforms

There has long been discussion on the **necessity of school uniforms**. In this essay I will describe the pros and cons of wearing uniforms at schools, and will show my vision of which of the options is right.

Those people who consider uniforms necessary say that by wearing the same clothes children get much more than they lose. First, there are no arguments and hesitations as to what to wear in the morning. It really saves a great deal of time. Second, it teaches children of what **dress code** is and what clothes are appropriate for serious activities. It influences the perception of school greatly and disciplines people. So, it is a way of showing pupils what is going to wait for them in the work atmosphere and teaches them how to be tidy and neat. Others claim that school uniform limits the students' self-realization and doesn't allow them to show their character. It also exerts pressure over children and limits their possibilities.

In my opinion, school uniform has to be obligatory. I understand that in some perspective, it is a limiting factor for them, but I don't consider it to be critical. The necessity to show children how they should behave in the adult life is much more important. Besides, in this way they will understand that it is possible and necessary to realize their opportunities in the spheres other than **their appearance**. They will soon stop being distracted by it and will **focus on education** only.

Descriptive essay

My plan for an ideal holiday

A holiday is a time to unwind, to de-stress and to refresh oneself for the next year. Many consider holidays a chance to travel extensively, discover new places, and shop. My ideal holiday, however, would be a quiet getaway into the nearby mountains with my close friends. The forested mountains offer one the best chance to vanish from the overpowering tedium of daily life. The green hue of the trees, the clouds which play hide and seek with the sun and the moon, the calls of the birds and animals soothe one's soul and calm one's nerves. With my bag packed with books to read, with minimal plans to tour outside, my holiday would be a peaceful and silent experience where I would get the chance to listen to my own inner voice.

The mountain hike would begin early in the morning - before dawn, which is my favourite time of the day. Watching the sunrise from a view-point is a delight in itself. The sight not only lights up the outside but one's inner self, too. Trekking in the mountains can be a rewarding experience, as reaching every target provides immense gratification. Once the hike is done, a stomach-filling breakfast is the ideal way to begin the day.

Other than the hiking, my holiday would have very little physical work. My next to-do would be reading a book by my favourite author, ideally nestled in a hammock out on the hotel

lawn. A late lunch with my friends followed by long chats and a walk till sunset would be really great. Another three hours of uninterrupted reading on the balcony with birds flying home in the background and the sounds of insects would be ideal. As night approached, watching a movie, probably an old favourite, together with friends, is how I would wish to close the day.

Expository Essay:

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy

The Bhopal Gas Tragedy is one of the gravest industrial disasters in the history of mankind. This fateful accident happened in the year 1984 on the night of 3 December in Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh, in central India. The gas that leaked and claimed so many lives was methyl isocyanate or MIC in short. Union Carbide India Limited's plant in Bhopal was the site at which the accident occurred.

The reason for the gas leak was the entry of water into one of the storage tanks of MIC resulting, in an increase in pressure and temperature which, in turn, led to the bursting of the tank, releasing the poisonous gas into the surrounding atmosphere. It was around 9:30 pm that a huge amount of water entered the tank and the tank is reported to have burst at around 12:30 am, when the whole city was sleeping. It was the chemical reaction between water and MIC that turned fatal.

The two local hospitals were soon flooded with victims and the doctors could not support the incoming flow as they had no clue about the chemical compounds which had affected the patients. Out of the eight lakh people in Bhopal, 2000 died instantly and 300,000 were severely injured. Along with the human population, thousands of animals were killed. Water resources were rendered non-potable and the very air became deadly. Though the accident happened in 1984, a study conducted in 1990 revealed that those who survived suffered internal injuries, both physical and psychological, which kept surfacing frequently. These diseases ranged from blindness, failure in immune systems to even menstrual problems in women.

A thorough analysis of the causes and effects of the tragedy has attracted global attention. It was a lesson learnt the hard way as the gas leak has rendered the succeeding generations unhealthy and vulnerable to diseases. The poor levels of safety and maintenance, workers' dissatisfaction due to unacceptable degrees of health hazards were all found to be concrete reasons for the gas leak.

Apart from loss of life and property, the environmental degradation caused by the gas leak has turned the whole area around it infertile. The vegetation is almost bare and the animals have literally vanished from surrounding areas. Though legal litigations have been a long, arduous process, proving quite dissatisfactory to the victims, the environmental loss is irreversible.

Philosophical Essay:

Check Out Our Emotions, Mood, and Motives

Emotion is a very complex mental process. The phenomenon of emotion has puzzled scientists all over the world over a long period of time. Scherer defined emotion as an episode of interrelated, synchronized changes in the states of most of the five organism subsystems in response to the evaluation of an external or internal stimulus event (Scherer, 2001). This researcher highlights information about the components and suppositions of emotion. The central idea is that emotion is a complex process of translation of information from brain to mind, which runs incredibly fast.

A variety of definitions have been provided for emotion. Emotion is a very important aspect in the context of quality and meaning of existence. According to Ekman (1934), there is a variety of components that prescribe certain emotion. First, physiological features are the most individually significant components of emotion. All people are able to notice physical changes when something very specific, delightful or disgusting happens to them. The behavioral component is very eloquent as it is a reflection of changeable emotions. It deals with the dynamics of movements, volume of human voice, and different action tendencies. Emotions can be considered as a result of past subjective experience. It means that this component is not a stored parameter of each individual. In case when some impressions are delightful for one individual, they are not necessarily acceptable for others. The cognitive component of emotions deals with intensity. That is how human beliefs and views influence on the character of emotions.

Certainly, daily situations produce an affective or emotional feeling. Unfortunately, people are not capable to control events that produce emotions. Consequently, they get either emotional or affective reaction. Scherer said that emotions are generally elicited by stimulus events: "It means that something happens to the organism that stimulates or triggers a response after having been evaluated for its significance." Ekman (1934) exposed a similar attitude to this question. More often emotions are carried by human sense. Whether a situation is good or bad for one's well-being is just a causality of situation. Wukmir (1967) proposed that emotion is a certain mechanism of reaction. Emotion is a mentioned above translation. If it carries advantages for an individual's well-being, he/she experiences a positive emotion, such as joy or happiness. In case an expression is negative, for example sense of danger, ruby or anger, one is exposed to sorrow or sadness. The majority of emotions depend on the memorized information from the past. Emotional reactions can be even inadequate to what really happens. These are affective features. Some scientists state that the mechanism of emotional reaction leads people, their deeds and words all the time. It

shapes the model of their behavior and appropriate emotional and related social skills. It is an individual choice to expose or hide emotions.

In conclusion, emotions are aimed to deal with the fundamental life tasks. Sometimes individual emotions can help to win a chance and achieve something great. On the other hand, uncontrolled emotions can damage the well-being of a personality. That is why this translation from our brain to our mind should be accurate and controlled as much as possible. It is hard to find a common tool to control hard impulses of our emotional life. Fortunately, people are still able to control external manifestation of their emotions.