
LANGUAGE IN INDIA

Strength for Today and Bright Hope for Tomorrow

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Newspapers:

A Great Aid to Teach Writing Skill to Senior Secondary Students

Astha, M.A., B.Ed., Ph.D. Scholar

Teaching Aids in Classroom

Teaching-learning is not just a process only; it's a communion between two minds - the teacher and the learner. This interaction becomes highly successful and fruitful when suitable atmosphere is created. A dull classroom can never lead to good communication..

To make a class room engaging, absorbing, fascinating and educating, a teacher takes the help of teaching aids. Teaching aids work as a sort of a magical wand in the hands of an innovative and creative teacher. Teaching aids help to:

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- make the classroom interesting.
- retain concepts permanently.
- develop proper image of the topic taught.
- avoid dullness.
- provide direct experience.
- save time and money.
- motivate learning, and
- clarify concepts.

When a teacher chooses an aid to carry to the classroom it needs to be handy, effective and attractive. And it becomes all the more wonderful when it is cheap and easily accessible to students as well. For, the moment a teacher enters the classroom with a teaching aid the students are attracted and become eager to use it, see it, and touch it.

Indian Classrooms

In Indian classrooms, teaching English is a challenge, as it requires teacher to be well equipped to make the students learn a much sought after (feared also) language without which they have no standing in today's competitive world. Moreover, it is not their mother-tongue and every student struggles. Students might actually enjoy a proper atmosphere, in a classroom conducive to learning a foreign language.

Newspapers as a Teaching Aid

In today's E-era there are numerous audio visual aids, but to teach writing skills to senior secondary students, newspapers can be used as a wholesome aid for the following reasons;

- linguistically rich; provide valuable and fresh linguistic data.
- a single newspaper caters to a whole range of writing skills
- ever new and ever fresh printed items

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- language is written by experts
- a clear print resource, can be cut and pasted
- part and parcel of modern life
- easily accessible
- economical
- handyman

The Use of Advertisements

When introduced in class as a learning aid to learn writing skill, newspapers help the students feel empowered as they realize what they are learning to write, is of much utility in their day today life. Classified and commercial advertisements, obituaries, appeals, notices, letters to the editor, reports and articles printed in a newspaper can teach them how to write everything professionally. These also open the gateway of knowledge as to how practically they can exploit the writing skill learnt in the class room.

While teaching advertisements, the newspaper provides help to teach both kinds of advertisements:

- a) Classified**
- b) Commercial**

Students come across many advertisement when read a newspaper. Students learn new adjectives, vocabulary, abbreviations (much used in classified writing) and various ways to write a particular type of classified advertisement. The teacher can help them by demonstrating and explaining the use of various adjectives and also the different writing styles adopted in different advertisements.

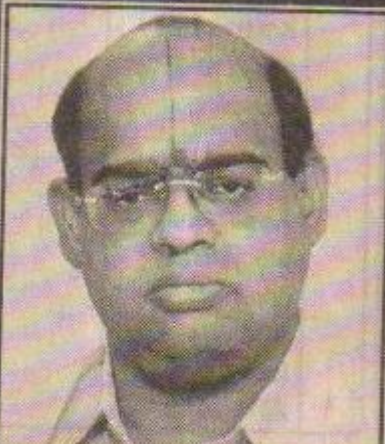
Classified Advertisement

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Consider the following:

<p>SITUATIONS VACANT</p> <p>GENERAL</p>	<p>PERSONAL</p> <p>LOST & FOUND</p>	<p>OBITUARY</p> <p>DEATH</p>
<p>CIVIL SERVICES Experts & Content Developer <i>India's Leading Org. of Delhi Inviting Passionate Experts</i></p> <p>General Studies Public Administration Sociology</p> <p>Skills Desired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Academic Competence✓ Understanding UPSC✓ Innovative Skill✓ Positive Attitude✓ Active Learner <p><i>Sincere, Dedicated, Discipline & team oriented candidates will be preferred.</i></p> <p>Send you updated resume with IAS mains marks sheet Email: innovation4ias@gmail.com</p>	<p>LOST & FOUND</p> <p>The following receipts of Parsvnath Developers of payment for Villa A-424 at Sonepat have been lost. The receipts are in name of Mr. Vipin Bhatia: Rec. No. 5005725 Rs. 1,24,574 / Rec. No. 5005726 Rs. 3,20,000 / Rec. No. 5005740 Rs. 6,00,000 / Rec. No. 5005755 Rs. 6,00,000 / Rec. No. 50080067 Rs. 3,20,000 / Rec. No. 50080089 Rs. 6,00,000 / Rec. 50080095 Rs. 3,00,000 / Rec. No. 50108320 Rs. 2,00,000. Finder may return or contact the undersigned.</p> <p>Kamal Bhatia, Mob.: 9999885691</p>	<p>SAD DEMISE</p>  <p>D.Narayanan @ Raja</p> <p>D.O.B: 25-12-1965 D.O.D: 03-06-2012</p> <p>Deeply Mourned By Mother, Wife, Daughters, Brothers, Friends & Relatives</p> <p>Inserted by A.Raghavan (Uncle) 094444 04436</p>

Commercial Advertisements

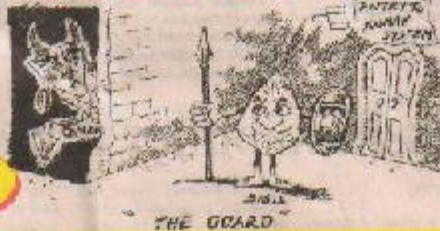
S. CHAND'S NEW ARRIVAL

There is hope, a "BIG HOPE". We can practically STOP over 80% of all cancers. The scientific evidence linking diet and lifestyle to cancer is so compelling that even American Cancer Institute estimates that more than 33% of cancer related deaths are due to these two factors.

This book is accumulation of world's latest and most credible research in the field of Nutrition by the best Doctors, Research Scientists and Health Consultants.



52 SIMPLE WAYS TO PREVENT, CONTROL AND TURN OFF **CANCER**



• Code: 22 337
• ₹ 395/-

Secret World of Cancer

- You can stop over 80% of all cancers
- World's 3 best doctors recommendations
- Silencing the bad genes
- Top thirteen cancer promoters
- Winning with the right wine
- The ancient science of cancer cure
- Right cup of tea - giant cancer killer
- Super charge the yellow gold spice - 1000 times
- Apple variety with double cancer killing power
- Enhance the healing power of garlic

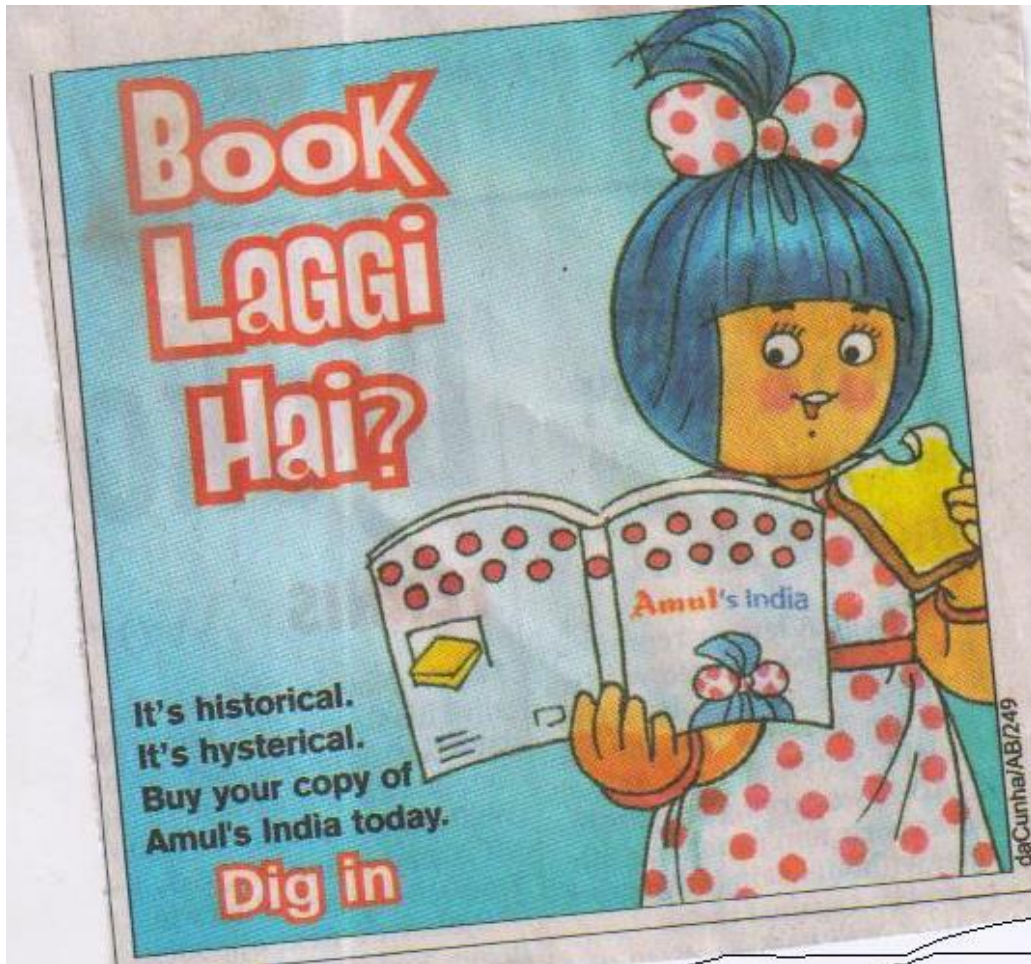


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The commercial advertisements printed in the newspapers teach the students how to make their draft catchy and also how they can make a limited use of slang in preparing such type of advertisements.

On reading various articles they learn new vocabulary and idioms. They also know how to start writing about a topic and how to tackle the matter by exploring every aspect of an issue and present their ideas.

Letters to the Editor

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Letters to the editor column tells how to present the ideas coherently and systematically. Students learn to respond to the issues printed in the paper. They learn to form opinions regarding social and political issues, learn to generate new ideas, and present them in attractive ways.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

BJP's problems

The editorial "The knives are out" (June 4) was a good insight into the internal squabbles within the other principal national party, the BJP. At a time when it needs to be focussing public/mass resentment on attacking the anti-people policies of the UPA-II government, it is most unfortunate that its leaders are now engaged in infighting. However, it would be too premature to write off the party. Being the only credible opposition to the Congress, the BJP leaders need to take collective responsibility for the party's successes and failures.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

Even though the Congress, whose popularity has plummeted, thanks to corruption and dismal governance, will heave a sigh of relief over these developments, for the people, no party – either the BJP or the Congress – is the "lesser of the two evils."

S. Ramakrishnasayee,
Ranipet

On Team Anna

This refers to the reports on the day-long fast in Delhi by members of Team Anna (June 4). Though there may be differences, the team needs to move ahead and ensure that the country gets strong anti-corruption laws.

Taneer Banerjee,
Kolkata

Mr. Hazare should concentrate all his efforts in educating people on the need to elect worthy individuals. Giving pinpricks to those in power is no proper way to fight corruption.

S.S. Rajagopalan,
Chennai

The sharing of a platform on Sunday by Mr. Hazare and Ramdev may have had some results. But Mr. Hazare ought to use the Gandhian mechanism of fasting sparingly. Though it is commendable that he is keen on keeping the issue of corruption alive, he should also highlight other issues undermining the country's progress.

Shivnarayan Rajpurohit,
Bikaner

Advani for collegium

Senior BJP leader L.K. Advani's call for a broadbased collegium for appointments to constitutional posts like the Election Commissioner is worth considering (June 4). Hitherto, the President on the advice of the Prime Minister made the appointments which were more a unilateral decision of the ruling party. Hence, an element of favouritism could not be ruled out. The UPA should consider Mr.

Advani's idea in a democratic spirit. It should not forget the embarrassment it faced during the appointment of the former Chief Vigilance Commissioner.

A. Michael Dhannaraj,
Coimbatore

Problems could arise when there is a conflict of interest as in the inclusion of the minister of law and justice during the selection of Election Commissioners.

J. Venkat,
Cuddalore

Interlocutors' report

There is a general feeling among the people of Jammu and Kashmir that their interests and plight are being mishandled by the State and Central governments ("Farce in three parts," June 4). Also, there are vested interests who are fishing in troubled waters. Whatever the impact of the report, it is now time to sow the seeds of brotherhood, and foster a sense of responsibility and understanding among the people of J&K. The government must also build on the lead provided by youngsters from Kashmir attempting the examinations of the Union Public Service Commission (editorial,

June 2).

P. Senthil Saravana Durai,
Tallicorin

It looks like the government has turned a deaf ear to the saying "one learns from his mistakes" because if that was not the case, then this time round the interlocutors would have surely come up with remedies to restoring peace. What J&K needs now is a serious attempt at reconciliation involving the government and the residents of the State, and helped by a strong economic package.

Deepak Sharma,
Panchkula

Budhni's story

The article "Recovering Budhni Mejhan from the silted landscape of modern India" (June 2) was an eye-opener for me and the thousands of others who must have read it. What an incredible journey through the sands of time into an era where the development and progress of a country was measured purely on an economic scale devoid of the emotional quotient which acts as a nexus between the ecology and its inhabitants! As a nation, we prefer to be indifferent to the perils of

others and consider it a necessary evil in the path of progress as long as we are not affected. We cannot rule people out because they are socially or culturally not on a par with us, "the educated elite." Let us not measure development through the prism of economic growth alone, because development without responsibility is going to land us in an abyss from which we might take centuries to crawl out from.

Rahul Sen,
Pune

Man as beast

This refers to the photo essay "Rescue goes awry" (June 4), on the death of a leopard in Assam. It's nothing but the sheer lack of elementary knowledge in handling dangerous, wild animals which proved fatal for the beautiful feline. A wild animal in severe stress will naturally panic and attack anyone within striking distance. But a team of experts panicking speaks very poorly of their professional skills.

Perhaps, the officials need to learn from episodes aired on television that show the amount of planning that goes into animal capture. Till then, such scenes, as

Posters

Newspaper also helps much in teaching students to draft and craft **posters**. It plays a great role as one always gets new ideas from newspapers; the learner learns the importance of eye catching phrases etc., and the posters also show the way to use mother tongue to make posters far reaching a large audience through the use of catchy phrases and short pithy sayings.

Together Let's Protect the Green Treasure



Smt. Sheila Dikshit
Chief Minister, Delhi

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

5th June, 2012



DIP/0372/2012-13

Theme - Green Economy : Does it include YOU?

Green Economy is defined as significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities while improving human well-being and social equity. It means creating low carbon footprints being resource efficient.

Activities

- Ceremonial Plantation at Garhi Mandu at 8:30 a.m.
- Flagging off : Science Express - Biodiversity Special Train at Safdarjung Railway Station at 9:00 a.m. (A Collaborative Initiative of Ministry of Environment & Forests and Department of Science & Technology, Government of India)

Protect the Planet

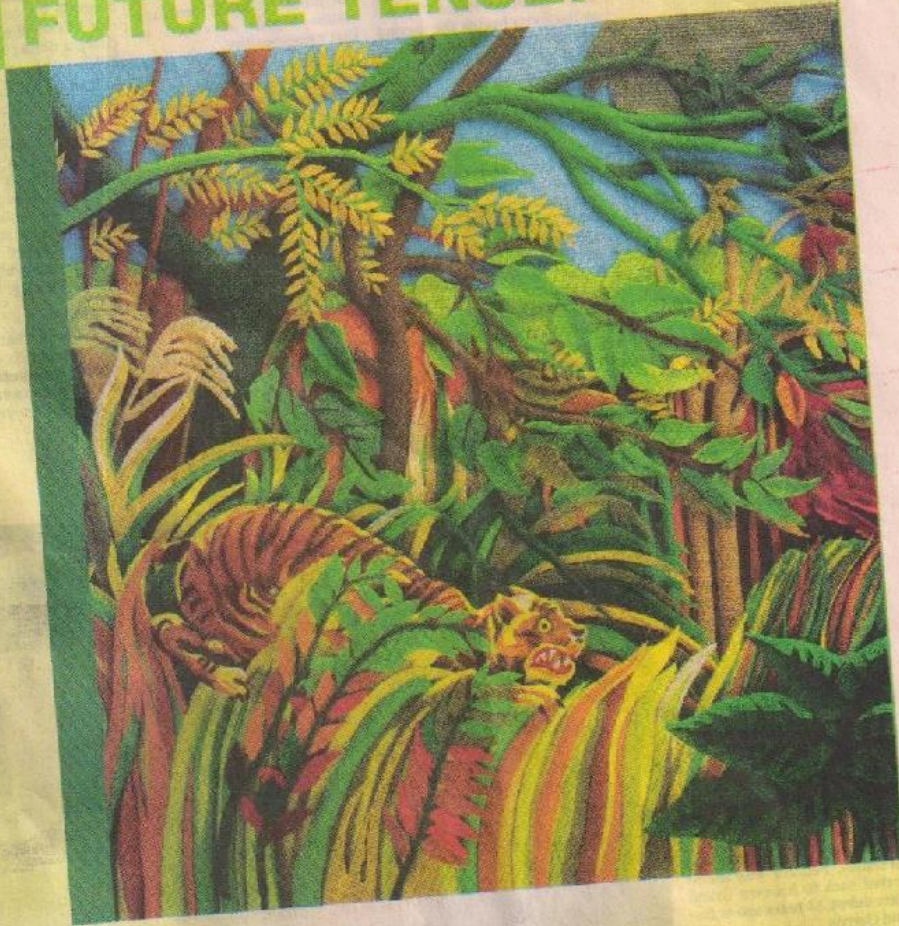
- Harvest rain water • Conserve energy • Plant & nurture trees • Dispose of E-waste properly • Use CFL/LED • Use solar power • Recycle paper/ water • Don't use plastic bags.



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT & FORESTS
Government of NCT of Delhi
website: www.environment.delhigovt.nic.in

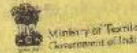


picture perfect.
FUTURE TENSE.



Every minute, one million synthetic bags choke the earth.
Clogging sewage. Blocking drains. Breeding disease.
Polluting air. Harming wildlife.

On Environment Day, make a commitment. Switch to Jute.
Earth-friendly. Strong. Versatile. Washable. Fashionable.
Because we have only one world to leave to our children.



ND-ND

Reports

Reports printed in the newspaper teach students how to narrate an incident or accident descriptively, putting in all the minute details including the reactions of the general public.



Conclusion

Newspaper in many ways is really a worthy companion in teaching writing skills to students. The most interesting fact is that a single newspaper can cater to many of their needs. All the examples have been taken from one newspaper. Another benefit of using the newspaper as an aid is

that besides improving the writing skill it also helps to improve a student's reading skills, ultimately creating a good reader/writer.

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