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ENGLISH IN DAILY LIFE

B.E.G.L.A.-135

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By: Kumud Lohani



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QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

ENGLISH IN DAILY LIFE

B.E.G.L.A.-135

Time: 3 Hours]

[Maximum Marks: 100

Note: Attempt all the questions. All questions carry equal marks.

Q. 1. Read the following passage and answer the questions given below:

The Greeks created the world's first democracies, now the officially preferred form of government the world over.

Democracy meant rule by all people. The introduction of this form of government was a genuine revolution in human history. There was little in the world of the Mediterranean and Middle East C. 600 B.C., where absolute monarchies and priestly hierarchies were the norm to suggest that this was about to happen.

But in Greece, hereditary monarchy was dying out or had already been replaced by aristocracies or tyrants (meaning, in the context of Greece, unconstitutional rulers with broad popular support, not necessarily dictators), while there was a separate priesthood. Even more crucial perhaps, in the Classical Age (C. 500-300 B. C.) Greece was never unified into a large, centrally controlled state. Instead, it remained divided into scores of fiercely independent city-states. This was partly due to geography. Lacking large river valleys or plains, Greece is divided by mountains into small valleys, which inherently encouraged such individualism. But the results made Greek civilization as it developed focused on each city-state or 'polis' – crucially different from all earlier civilization.

(A) Answer the following questions:

(i) Describe the form of government created by the Greeks.

Ans. The Greeks created the world's first democracies, now the officially preferred form of government the world over.

Democracy meant rule by all people. The introduction of this form of government was a genuine revolution in human history.

(ii) What was the 'norm' in the Mediterranean and the Middle East C. 600 B. C.?

Ans. There was little in the world of the Mediterranean and Middle East C. 600 B.C., where

absolute monarchies and priestly hierarchies were the norm to suggest that this was about to happen.

(iii) Why was Greece never unified into a centrally controlled state?

Ans. Greece was never unified into a large, centrally controlled state. Instead, it remained divided into scores of fiercely independent city-states. This was partly due to geography.

(iv) Suggest a suitable title for the passage and give justification for your chosen title.

Ans. Title: The Greek Civilization.

The whole passage revolves around the Ancient Greek Civilization.

(B) Give the synonyms of the following words:

(i) Monarchy : Kingship

(ii) Tyrant : Dictator

(iii) Aristocracies : Legality

(iv) Hierarchy : Order

(v) Crucial : Critical

(C) Write a brief paragraph on Democracy and Greek Civilisation (Circa 600 B.C. – 300 B.C.).

Ans. The ancient Greeks were the first to create a democracy. The word "democracy" comes from two Greek words that mean people (demos) and rule (kratos). Democracy is the idea that the citizens of a country should take an active role in the government of their country and manage it directly or through elected representatives. In addition, it supports the idea that the people can replace their government through peaceful transfers of power rather than violent uprising or revolution. Thus, a key part of democracy is that the people have a voice.

The first known democracy in the world was in Athens. Athenian democracy developed around the fifth century B.C.E. The Greek idea of democracy was different from present-day democracy because, in Athens, all adult citizens were required to take an active part in the government. If they did not fulfil their duty they would be fined and sometimes marked with red paint. The Athenian definition of "citizens" was also

different from modern-day citizens: only free men were considered citizens in Athens. Women, children, and slaves were not considered citizens and therefore could not vote.

Each year 500 names were chosen from all the citizens of ancient Athens. Those 500 citizens had to actively serve in the government for one year. During that year, they were responsible for making new laws and controlled all parts of the political process. When a new law was proposed, all the citizens of Athens had the opportunity to vote on it. To vote, citizens had to attend the assembly on the day the vote took place. This form of government is called direct democracy.

The United States has a representative democracy. Representative democracy is a government in which citizens vote for representatives who create and change laws that govern the people rather than getting to vote directly on the laws themselves.

Q. 2. Write short notes on the following:

(i) Online Education

Ans. Online education is an amenable instructional delivery process that includes any learning that takes place via the internet. Online learning enables educators to communicate with students who may not be capable of enrolling in a traditional classroom course and assists students who need to work on their own schedule and at their own speed.

Every discipline is registering a surge in the volume of distance learning and imparting of online degrees, with remarkable pace. Schools and institutions that offer online education are also growing in number. Students pursuing degrees through online methods must be scrupulous in ensuring their coursework is completed through a valued and credentialed university.

Online education is known to offer the benefit of synergy. Here, the format employed makes room for dynamic communications between students and the teachers. Through these communications, sources are shared, and an open-ended synergy evolves through a learning process. When each person bestows a view or opinion through discussions and comments on others' work course, it benefits the student to learn better. This unique advantage is manifested in a student-centred virtual learning environment that online learning format alone can contribute.

With online classes, we don't need to travel to a different city or commute long distances. We can stay where we are and keep our current job while we work toward improving our career with an online degree. Online education also helps digital nomads—someone who espouses a technology-enabled or location-

independent lifestyle. We can watch lectures and complete our coursework wherever we are.

Whether we are a full-time or part-time online student, the online education experience provides a much more manageable schedule. Online education has gained much approval on account of its cheapness. Such is the fact that online courses are more affordable than those offered at schools or colleges. While studying in universities, we may have to spend some money such as transportation, lodging, and meals, online education may not require such expenses.

One of the important aspects of online learning is its inherent flexibility, however, there is a catch, one has to be extremely self-motivated. The best online students develop various approaches for staying up to date on their coursework. Things like setting aside time every week to study and create a workspace with minimal distractions can help immensely.

Online education's potential advantages involve increased educational access; it provides a high-quality learning opportunity, improves student outcomes and skills, and expands educational choice options. Therefore, location, time, and quality are no longer considered factors in seeking degree courses or higher education because of online education.

(ii) Life during the pandemic

Ans. COVID-19 has struck humanity like a lightning, fast and aggressive. No one expected a murderous pandemic to occur out of nowhere and then spread like a wildfire. Such a pandemic isn't usual in modern times and by the existence of humanity (not unusual like once in a millennium, but you know). The massive casualties of war, the slow but deadly changes of nature, and the problems caused by both are usually the only events that make the world feel problematic and baffled. Some thought that we could've capitalized on technologies to disperse news and spread awareness of contemporary issues of a certain region, so it may not escalate into a global crisis but, so many variables were considered before the population's health, that decisions were poorly made.

As the pandemic stretched its existence longer, more problems aroused, further adding fuel to the fire. At the start, everyone stood idly by, watching the virus infect thousands each day. Death toll slowly rose as we worked at our jobs and studied at our schools. The number of news centered on the virus increased as the virus progressed into a pandemic and the pandemic caused the economic downfall. Some became jobless; some ran out of food to eat, some complained, some got infected, and some died. Society knew little about

Sample Preview of The Chapter

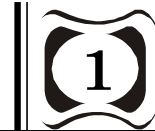
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ENGLISH IN DAILY LIFE



Starting and Ending Conversations

INTRODUCTION

Before we start the thick of things, I'll let you in on the mindset you need to have when starting up a conversation. Lets break the fear of speaking to strangers that really comes from the fear of seeming "Weird" or looking foolish. You're essentially afraid of the other person's reactions, like a strange look that says "I don't want to talk to you", or even someone laughing at you. (Of course, this very rarely happens in real life!). To be honest, we still experience moments of fear when to start conversations in a language we learning. And we need to start and end conversation with proper etiquette's and expressions. One should be able to monitor their own speech more critically and follow the manners and etiquette's.

CHAPTER AT A GLANCE

READING COMPREHENSION: ETIQUETTE

Read the passage to understand how and why etiquette matters.

Etiquette is a set of customs and rules for polite behavior, especially among a particular class of people or in a particular profession. Etiquette is a system of rules that tell you what is the polite way to behave towards other people. The rules of etiquette cover such things as good table manners, how to introduce one person to another, what to say or do when someone invites you for a meal or a visit, and many other things.

Some of the rules of etiquette seem silly, because they began hundreds of years ago when things were not the same as they are today. Most of the rules of etiquette are not silly at all. They are based on the fact that you should never hurt other people's feelings or make things unpleasant or uncomfortable for other people. Kindness is always good manners, and unkindness never is.

Many well-established rules of etiquette make more sense when you know how they originated.

Origins of Etiquette

A man tips or lifts his hat as a polite greeting (usually to a woman) in western countries because hundreds of years ago knights in armor raised the visors of their helmets so that their faces could be seen.

People shake hands because long ago men held out their empty hand to show that they were not holding daggers or other weapons. A man walks on the outside of the sidewalk because at one time streets were not paved and were muddy, and by walking on the inside the woman would stand less chance of being splashed by carriages.

A man helps a woman across a street or out of a car because years ago in western countries women's skirts reached to the soles of their shoes and they had to hold them up with their hands and also look down to keep from tripping.

Times and manners have changed but some rules of etiquette are followed all round the world specially in formal situations. It is, however, interesting to know about these rules even if you do not need to follow all of them.

Some Rules of Etiquette

Introductions: Always introduce a younger person to an older one; for example, "Ms. Verma, may I introduce my friend Nita Kumar." Among grownups, a man is generally introduced to a woman; "Ms. Verma may I introduce Mr. Kumar." When you are with one friend and meet another, you must immediately introduce them if they do not already know each other. When you have been out with a friend and s/he accompanies you home, you must ask him/her to come in and meet any members of your family who are there unless s/he already knows them. It is very rude to fail to make or offer these introductions.

Table Manners: Different countries have different 'Polite' ways to use the knife, fork, and spoon, and any one of the ways is all right. Only the fork or spoon may be used to carry food to the mouth, and when the table is set with several knives and forks, the one on the outside is always the one to use next. A napkin should be laid in the lap and never tucked into any part of the clothing. It is considered impolite to lean on the table with your elbows. You should not begin to eat until your host or hostess has begun. It is bad manners to take too large mouthfuls or to talk while there is any food in your mouth. One bite of food should be cut and eaten before another is cut. These are the main rules of table manners, but there are many more.

Gifts: Gifts should not be too expensive or too personal (like clothing) unless you know the person very well. Flowers and chocolates are proper gifts from boys to girls. Now-a-days young people give treats to friends.

Acknowledgment: Before leaving any house in which you are a guest, you must find your host and hostess and thank them. If you have spent the night with them you should write a letter within a few days at most, and thank them. A thank you note must also be sent promptly for any gift, and it is polite to telephone the next day when you have been at a party or at dinner at somebody else's house.

Courtesy to Ladies: Fifty years ago it was not polite for a man to remain seated when a woman was standing, unless the woman asked him to. When a woman entered a room, every man in the room immediately stood up and remained standing until she sat down or asked them to sit down. A man normally lets a woman go before him through a doorway, or upstairs, or downstairs, and he would not get into a car until she was in it and the door on her side was closed. In taking places at a table, the men did not sit down until the women were seated. Now-a-days these rules are not followed except on very formal occasions and mostly in the Army. With women joining the work force in large numbers, norms have changed. Today the relationship between the sexes is much more democratic and less formal. Yet everyone appreciates a young man giving his seat to women in a bus or his waiting to allow children and women into the bus first. There are many books that could give you rules of formal etiquette. Most of these rules are seldom needed. Many of them would be ridiculous if used in ordinary circumstances. The ones that matters are of good taste, kindness and being sensitive to other people.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS-1

Answer the following questions:

Q. 1. Say whether the following statements are True or False. Re-read the passage to correct the false statements:

(i) Rules of etiquette are all silly.

Ans. False: They are used to remove unpleasantness.

(ii) A younger person should be introduced to an older person.

Ans. True

(iii) It is rude to send a friend away from the door without introducing him/her to your family.

Ans. True

(iv) It is polite to rest your elbows on the table and eat rapidly in big mouthfuls.

Ans. False: It is impolite to lean on the table with your elbows. One bite should be cut and eaten before another is cut.

(v) Expensive clothing can be given to new friends.

Ans. False: Flowers and chocolates are proper gifts to new friends.

(2) Fill in the blanks choosing appropriate words from the text:

Etiquette tells us how to behave in society. If we follow good manners, we will not hurt people's (i)..... and our interaction will be pleasant and (ii)..... Some rules of etiquette become meaningful if we study their (iii)..... For example, shaking hands began when men had to show they were not carrying (iv)..... Some rules of etiquette are not strictly followed, especially those that deal with (v)..... to ladies. However, one like (vi)..... your host and hostess before leaving a party is always followed.

Ans. (i) feelings, (ii) comfortable, (iii) origin, (iv) weapons, (v) courtesy, (vi) thanking.

Q. 3. Answer the following briefly:

(i) How should introductions be carried out? What expression will you use?

Ans. Always introduce a younger person to an older person. *Expressions:* Mr./Ms.

(ii) List three good table manners.

Ans. (a) use a fork or spoon to carry food to the mouth; (b) lay the napkin on the lap; (c) one bite should be cut and eaten before another is cut.

(iii) What gifts are acceptable among newly made friends?

Ans. Flowers and chocolates.

(iv) What should you do before leaving a party or a friend's house?

Ans. Find the host and the hostess and thank them.

(v) How did the custom of shaking hands start?

Ans. Long ago men held out their empty hands to show that they were not holding daggers or other weapons.

(vi) Why does a man walk on the outside of the sidewalk?

Ans. In olden days roads were not paved and were muddy. By walking on the inside, the woman would stand less chance of being splashed by mud brought up by carriages.

LISTENING: PROBLEMS IN STARTING A CONVERSATION

While listening to someone our expectations, are linked to our purpose in listening. We generally listen to someone with some preconceived idea of the matter. So there is a close association between listener expectation, purpose and comprehension. Listening is not a passive process. In fact, the listener can, and should, be at least as engaged in the process as the speaker. The phrase '*Active Listening*' is used to describe this process of being fully involved.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS-2

Answer the questions after reading the conversation given below:

Tape Script: Problems in starting a conversation

Rinku: Hello Dev! Bunked the class as usual?

Dev: Oh Hi! Yes, I had to miss either the class or my breakfast. You know how it is in the hostel!!

Rinku: Yes, of course I do! Food for thought can always wait but real food can't! (Both laugh)

Dev: Well, why aren't *you* in the class? Don't tell me...

Rinku: Well, I missed the Youth Special...I was waiting for Neha. I wonder what's keeping her away?....(Seeing Neha coming) Hi, Neha! Where have you been?

Dev: Hello Neha. How are you?

Neha: Hello! How are you?

Dev: Fine, thank you.

Rinku: What took you so long? Thought you were never coming!

Neha: There's a new student in our class—Shakeel Ahmed. I was introducing him to some of the others. He seemed so lost...

Rinku: Well! Well! Well! Neha is sure spreading her wings! I've never known her to talk to strangers!

Dev: (Hurt tone) Yes, not so long ago, I was the new one in the class. You didn't take me around or introduce me to friends!

Neha: Well, Rinku you weren't in the class! And, as usual the others ignored him completely. So someone had to break the ice!

Dev: Of course, someone had to introduce him around and make him feel good. And that some one had to be Neha! Lucky fellow!

Rinku: Shut up, Dev. Enough of your fooling. But Neha, a round of introduction shouldn't have taken you so long...

Neha: Well, once he began, he went on and on. And I didn't know how to come out of it without seeming rude. [They all laugh]

Q. 1. Say whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). For each of the statements either correct it if it is false or, give evidence from the conversation to prove that the statement is True.

(i) Dev is the new boy in class.

Ans. False: Shakeel Ahmed is the new boy in class.

(ii) Rinku and Neha are close friends.

Ans. True. Rinku says "Well! Well! Well!..... strangers. This shows intimacy; closeness.

(iii) Neha and Dev are close friends.

Ans. False: Dev says "How are you?" Uses formal language. They know each other well but are not close friends.

(iv) Rinku appears to be a quiet and shy person.

Ans. (iv) False: Knows both Dev and Neha well. Laughs a lot.

(v) Neha makes friends easily.

Ans. False: Both Dev and Rinku are surprised that she talked to the new student.

Q. 2. Answer the following questions briefly. You may have to listen to the conversation again:

(i) Find three words that tell us the conversation is taking place between students.

Ans. Bunk the class; hostel; youth special.

(ii) How does Rinku make fun to Dev?

Ans. Makes fun of him because he prefers food to studies. "Food for thought can always wait but real food can't".

(iii) How does Dev make fun of Neha?

Ans. Makes fun of Neha for starting a friendship with the new boy in the class—, "Lucky fellow!"

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(iv) **What is polite behaviour with newcomers?**

Ans. Someone should start a conversation with the newcomer. He must be introduced to the others in the class/department/office.

(v) **Is Neha able to end conversations effectively? How do you know?**

Ans. No, though Neha wants to end the conversation, she allows Shakeel to continue talking. She is unable to make an excuse and come away.

SAMPLES OF GREETINGS

Introducing and greeting someone are the first thing we say to someone or meet someone new to make them relaxed and comfortable. It may be at any place like at official meeting, party or gathering. For starting a conversation we need to involve three steps: greeting; introducing yourself; asking after the other person's well-being. We could use some of these expressions while introducing our self.

Formal is more polite and also if you don't know the person. **In formal** is used when talking to friends only!

Introducing Yourself

Alka: Have you met Priya?

Priya this is Nakul, a friend of mine from the office.

Priya: Hello Nakul!

Nakul: Hello, nice to meet you.

Nisha: Mr. Shashank, May I introduce you to my husband Amit?

Amit: this is Mr. Shashank our Manager.

Mr. Shashank: How do you do?

Amit: How do you do?

May I introduce myself?

I'm Laxmi Sharma from Amity University.

I have an appointment to see the Vice Chairman, Mr. Gulati at 4 pm. My name is Tushar Sharma and I'm from Airtel India Ltd.

CHECK YOUR PROGRESS-3

Q. 1. Read the short pieces below and decide on the following for each dialogue:

- Where is the conversation taking place?
- What is their relationship?
- Strangers/friends/family/acquaintances colleagues/neighbours
- Underline the words/ expressions that tell you about their relationship.

(i) **Ramesh Dixit:** What a pleasure to see you, Mr. Sharma! How are you keeping?

Vikram Sharma: Not bad. How are you doing, Mr. Dixit?

Ans. Formal situation like office or neighbourhood, could be colleagues or neighbours who do not know each other well.

(ii) **Nitoo:** Good morning. Welcome to Fergusson College, ma'am. The seminar is in Room number 16 down this corridor.

Ans. Formal; College student and a visitor to the college.

(iii) **Krishan Kumar:** Mr. Peter Walsh, how do you do? I'm Krishna Kumar, Personnel officer. Welcome to BHEL.

Peter Walsh: Thank you, Mr. Kumar. How do you do?

Ans. Formal; Office; New colleague or a visitor.

(iv) **Vikram Sharma:** Good morning, Sir!

Anil Ratan: Good morning, Vikram. I didn't see you in class yesterday. Are you keeping well?

Vikram Sharma: Yes Sir, thank you very much.

Ans. Formal; Outside class; Teacher and student.

(v) **Amrita Gill:** Hi! I'm Amrita Gill. We've just moved into this locality.

R.K.: Hi! I'm R.K. and this is Anu. Anu's in the ninth at Sprindale's and

I'm in the twelfth at Father Agnel. What about you?

Ans. Informal; Teenagers-Neighbourhood-Strangers.

(vi) **Students:** Good morning, ma'am.

Teacher: Good morning? It's well past 12 O'clock.

Ans. Formal; Classroom; Teacher and class.

(vii) **Visitor:** Good evening, I have an appointment with David Lee.

Reception: Good evening, could you sit down for a moment? I'll find out whether Mr. Lee is in.

Visitor: Of course, I'm Ajay Makeja from ICICI.

Ans. Formal; Office-Meeting for the first time.

WRITING: SHORT RESPONSES

The best advice for starting a conversation is actually quite simple—focus on the other person or say something light-hearted. Starting a conversation with a stranger is a rather difficult task. Often, the person with whom you are trying to start a conversation will have some unique aspect of themselves. Perhaps it is an item of jewellery, an unusual shirt, or maybe even a tattoo; something distinctive that tells a story about the person. Items like this give you a starting point for conversation.