

# ENGNNOVATIONS (English-Innovations) in Primary Education to Make English Students' Favourite Subject

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## Abstract

*English is a language of science, aviation, research, computers, diplomacy, and tourism. It is also a language of international communication, media, internet and medical sciences. English is considered to be a window to the modern world — an official and a link language which makes a bridge to reach at almost every heart under the sun. But, unfortunately, various students, teachers and guardians consider it to be very hard, difficult, complicated, problematic, dull and monotonous subject and have a phobia in their minds. They hesitate in using this language. This article is an attempt to scan, organise and present some responsible factors behind this phobia and suggest some ENGNNOVATIONS or ENGLISH-INNOVATIONS in primary education to ameliorate English teaching and learning process, to make English students' favourite subject and to eliminate English phobia.*

## INTRODUCTION

Various education-committees and commissions stressed on educational ameliorations and suggested overhaul in education system. Former President of India and eminent educationist, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, present Prime

Minister of India, Narendra Modi, Swami Sivananda, Mohammad Iqbal, Marshall McLuhan, and various other educational thinkers of India and abroad suggested educational innovations in their educational philosophies (Soti, Sharma, and

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Shukla, 2010). As per their recommendations, innovations are required at every level of education and in every subject. Here, in this article, innovations regarding English subjects are discussed in detail and these English-innovations are called here as, 'ENGNNOVATIONS'. ENGNNOVATIONS is an amalgam of two words—'English' and 'innovations'. English is a language of higher studies. Maximum quality textbooks, reference books, journals and other study material can be found in English language. English is the official language of about 53 countries all over the world and spoken by more than 400 million people around the world. In this way, English is the most common second language in the world. So, it is also called 'Lingua Franca', which means most universal language. English covers both literature and language.

The word innovation is derived from the Latin word *innovatus*, which means "to renew or change," stemming from *in* - 'into' + *novus* - 'new'. In this way, ENGNNOVATIONS includes some innovations related with English teaching and learning, innovations to make English easier, more interesting, grasping, comprehensive and to eliminate English phobia.

### **NEED AND IMPORTANCE OF ENGNNOVATION**

ENGNNOVATION or innovation in English is needed for various reasons. ENGNNOVATION develops

positive attitude towards English subject and provides knowledge about changed spellings and pronunciation in various countries, in a very interesting and educative way. ENGNNOVATION also informs students about different roots of English words or different etymological roots of English words. It provides opportunity to the students to practise listening, speaking, reading and writing English in the right way. It eliminates confusions regarding rules in spellings of different words and creates awareness about use of SPIRAL VOCABULARY technique. It provides proper, quick and just feedback and feed-forward facilities to the students and removes students' problems regarding multi-meaning words and students' confusion due to many exceptions of rules in English. It provides opportunity for spoken English to students and clarity of rules and exceptions in rules of English grammar, spellings and pronunciation. It also suggests using ICT tools to overcome problem of over-crowded classrooms and problem of less opportunity for individual attention to every student. It is also helpful for removing students' problems related with pronunciation and amelioration of wrong pronunciation and for converting excessive and boring home assignment in English subject into creative, interesting and activity-based home assignments.

ENGNNOVATION is also assisting in removing problems and providing clarity regarding silent-letters in spelling of different words. It introduces new innovative methods of teaching English language and grammar. It is assisting in enriching vocabulary of students and avoiding problem and confusion related with different meanings of same words, different meaning of similar words or homophones. It is helpful in memorising English idioms, phrases, proverbs and other words and in providing suitable environment for English reading, writing, listening and speaking to the students. It pleads for providing remedial teaching to backward students and for removing students' backwardness in fundamentals of English. It develops students' interest in English subject. It is also very effective in dealing effectively with students having problems of dyslexia, dyscalculia and autism. It is helpful in developing self confidence in students and promoting praise and raise policy in teaching-learning process. ENGNNOVATION advocates CCCE, i.e., cumulative, comprehensive and continuous evaluation in English and inspires activity-based teaching-learning in English classroom. It promotes co-curricular activities and sports in English classroom. It motivates effective use of teaching-learning material aids in English, and promotes libraries and laboratories of English in schools.

### **MAIN CAUSES OF STUDENTS' ENGLISH PHOBIA**

Main causes of students' hate for English subject or English phobia are—lack of awareness about use of SPIRAL VOCABULARY technique. Some students belonging to rural areas feel difficulty in active use of English (Soti and Sharma, 2007). Some students face the problem of lack of proper, quick and just feedback and feed forward facility. Students' problems regarding multi-meaning words, and confusion due to many exceptions of rules in English are also very significant. Students may also feel problems like lack of opportunity for spoken English, over-crowded classrooms and less opportunity for individual attention to every student (Soti and Sharma, 2006). Some students, belonging to rural areas may face problems related with proper pronunciation and amelioration of wrong pronunciation, punishment policy of some teachers or fear of students to be punished for any mistake in English or grammar (Soti and Sharma, 2008). Some students may suffer with excessive and boring home assignment in English subject, some other students may be puzzled with too many rules and too many exceptions in rules of English grammar, spellings and pronunciation. Some other causes of students' English phobia may be problems or difficulties concerning agreement of verb with its subject and helping verbs and difficulty in memorising English vocabulary,

i.e., idioms, phrases, proverbs and other words. Some students feel problem of unavailability of suitable environment for English listening, speaking, reading and writing.

Some other responsible reasons may be poor educational background of some students (Soti and Sharma, 2007), high level of teaching of teachers and students' backwardness in fundamentals of English. Some other problems are lack of activity-based teaching-learning in schools, lack of co-curricular activities and sports in English, less use of teaching-learning material aids in the subject, lack of libraries and laboratories of English in schools (Soti, Sharma and Sharma, 2007) and feeling difficulty by teachers in preparing lesson plans related with prose, poetry, translation, grammar, drama and stories.

### **ENGNNOVATIONS OR ENGLISH-INNOVATIONS TO MAKE ENGLISH A LOVING AND FAVOURITE SUBJECT OF STUDENTS**

Here are some innovative suggestions to make students' love English subject.

First innovative step is managing SPIRAL-VOCABULARY technique in the classrooms. This technique includes introducing new words, and ensuring proper learning, memorising, using, revising these words properly, during teaching the lessons, writing questions and answers, explaining exercise, translation and general speaking (Sharma, 2006).

Another ENGNNOVATION may be conducting one word substitution competition to develop synthesising ability of students in English subject. Role play method for teaching stories and literature by assigning roles to students and allocating simple and short dialogues to them at primary level may be used as an effective ENGNNOVATION.

Another ENGNNOVATION technique is arranging English Antakshari competition to enhance students' vocabulary. In this innovative technique, students are divided into two groups. Student of first group is instructed to speak a word, for example – 'apple', students of second group is required to concentrate on the last letter of the word and speak a new word beginning with that last letter. In this example, the last letter of the word 'apple' is 'e'. Second group will speak a word starting with letter 'e', for example – 'elephant'. Now, first group is required to speak any word that begins with the last letter of 'elephant', i.e., letter 't'. This process will be continued, and students will learn lots of words in a pleasant way to enhance their vocabulary.

Another ENGNNOVATION is the use of Prompt-Ameliorating-Dictation Technique, which includes and suggests quick feedback after each word are dictated to the students about the spelling by writing correct spelling on the chalk board by the teacher. Students are required to check spelling and ameliorate (if any mistake), and similar words should be dictated after feedback.

Another ENGNNOVATION is use of action-recognition game. In this game, teacher or monitor will perform an action and other students are required to guess or recognise the action and tell quickly. It will develop learning and insight about various action verbs in the students of primary level. Main examples of action-verbs, used for this game are — eating, drinking, dancing, singing, writing, reading, jumping, sitting, standing, running, cooking, sleeping, weeping, laughing, washing and walking, etc.

Another ENGNNOVATION is pronunciation competition. In this technique students are provided a list of difficult words with silent letters, long spellings and typical pronunciations. Example of these words are—knowledge, knife, knight, could, would, often, psychology, lamb, muscle, stomach, miscellaneous, benign, design, sign, bomb, debt, thumb, womb, solemn, autumn, whistle, listen, climb, lamb, tomb, science, scare and scorn. Wednesday, foreign, align, drought, thought, through, plough, enough, cough, rough, tough, might, daughter, hour, honour, exhibition, knee, know, knot, knit, calf, column, condemn, pneumonia, receipt, card, work, pour, scissors, ascend, fascinate, evening, interesting, vegetable, fight, flight, thigh, sigh, high, taught, brought, bought, weigh and weight, etc., are some other words for this technique.

One of the most significant ENGNNOVATIONS is proper arrangement of co-curricular

activities in English. Various education-commissions, education-committees, Indian Education Policy 1986, A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Marshall McLuhan and various other thinkers of India and abroad, National Curriculum Framework, 2005, and National Curriculum Framework for Teachers' Education, 2009 also paid due importance to the co-curricular activities (Soti and Sharma, 2009). These activities assist in developing various virtues in the students such as—co-operation, co-ordination, leadership, team spirit, and brotherhood, etc. (Soti and Sharma, 2008). Co-curricular activities are the activities designed for all round development (cognitive, affective and psychomotor development).

Another ENGNNOVATION is spell out competition. In this technique, teacher speaks some words and students are required to spell out these words accurately. These words may be started from easy to difficult. Words may be selected from text-book, reference book or from other sources but must be as per level of students. These words may include words including silent words, with difficult spellings and long spellings.

Another ENGNNOVATION is applying same question and different answer technique. In this technique, teacher asks one question and all the students are required to answer differently, as per their own standpoints, preferences, family background, likings and hobbies, etc.

Next ENGNNOVATION is playing K.B.C. (*KON BANEGA CHAMPION*) game with students. In this game, various questions regarding English vocabulary, grammatical rules, prose and poetry, etc., are asked from the students and other students of class listen carefully and also assist the player as per rules decided. Students may learn lots of useful grammatical rules, spellings, synonyms, antonyms and idioms and phrases in very interesting way, with this technique.

Another ENGNNOVATION is organising more words — more marks game. In this game, students are required to write maximum words they know, starting with giving letters. Student, who writes maximum words gets maximum marks and becomes winner of the game.

Next ENGNNOVATION is conducting rhyming words competition. In this competition, students are required to write rhyming words as much as possible. Students may also be motivated and guided for metrification or versification by using these rhyming words. Self-made poem competition may also be organised to develop students' poetic talent in English.

Another ENGNNOVATION is conducting quick and appropriate use of dictionary competition. Main aim of this competition or activity is to guide the students how to use dictionary and develop habit to use it. In this competition, students are provided some words and they are required to search them in the dictionary and

tell the meaning of those words, one by one with the page number of the dictionary.

As far as ENGNNOVATION in poetry is concerned, teacher may use English poem recitation competition. This English poem recitation competition is targeted on improving and developing skills of correct pronunciation, intonation, rhythm and rhyme in poem recitation.

Another ENGNNOVATION is rational grouping of students (backward and brilliant students). This is very useful and effective technique to bring educationally backward students into the mainstream. Educationally backward students learn a lot in the company of regular, punctual and brilliant students. Their school attendance is also improved and achievement level also ameliorated.

Next ENGNNOVATION is organising 'Super Mom' contest in the school. In this contest, a prize on monthly basis is given to the mothers, who use to send their children regularly and neatly and assist in English home assignments of the students.

Another ENGNNOVATION is showing educational short films, cartoon films, educational slides to the students, on laptop, tablet, smart phone or computer related with English subject.

Another ENGNNOVATION is pooling of words technique. In this technique students are instructed to tell more and more words on a letter of English alphabet. They will tell more and more words, one by one and teacher will note down on the board and in

the last, students will be instructed to note down these words on their note books and learn them.

Next ENGNNOVATION is organising puppet show and magic show. In this technique, interesting and touching puppet show and magical tricks are shown to students, based on English lessons. Students are very much interested in puppet shows, magic shows and other such shows and activities. Teacher can use students' this interest for educational purposes. Teacher may explain educative concepts, new words, new content and other study material with the help of puppet shows.

Another ENGNNOVATION is use of educational mobile apps. In this age of ICT, teachers have opportunity to use various educational apps to assist students' learning. Teachers must have proper knowledge of the latest technology and various such apps. Main mobile apps which may be helpful in this regards are—Read along, Kine Master, Twincraft, Reading Assistant, Pocket book reader, Puzzle kids, ABC kids tracing and Phonics, Droplets, Language learning, Phonics: reading game, Spelling master for kids spelling learning, Unacademy learning, BYJU'S, DIKSHA, Wikipedia, Maths tricks Vedantu, Live learning, Digital teacher canvas, Extra marks learnig, E-pathshala, google classroom, in Math, Hello English, Vocabulary builder, Improve English Speaking, SWAYAM, Todo Math, Maths formulas, Seesaw class, Study Smarter, Science Journal, Anatomy

Learning—3D Anatomy Atlas, Edmodo, Kids Academy, Namaste English, Internshala, Pre-school Adventures and English Speaking Practice, etc.

Some other ENGNNOVATIONS are—motivating students to sign on the attractive and colourful attendance register in English. The most active and laborious student may be provided 'star of the month award' for outstanding performance in English subject. Arranging chain-based teaching learning programmes in English subject. Assigning less, simple, interesting and activity-based home assignment as per calibre and interest of students in English subject. Encourage other activities of students' interest, such as—students' news-paper, display of pictures or painting prepared by students on display board of school and issuing school magazine containing students' articles, metrifications or poems, puzzles and other materials in English.

Organising meetings with other English experts or teachers of academic repute, to discuss on various educational and practical issues and to observe their methodology of handling and managing different events of English is another way to improve English environment in the school. Exposure visits of teachers and students to other model English schools and other places such as factories, parks, press. etc, may also be beneficial for the same. Happiness quotient, spiritual quotients along with intelligence quotient and

educational quotient must also be pondered well in designing of curriculum of English subject.

From the above cited description, it is clear that proper knowledge and active use of English is very important for students, and it is believed that

above cited set of remedial treatments and suggestions to ameliorate English teaching and learning and to eliminate English phobia, will be proven as a treasure, worthy to be possessed, studied deeply and implemented.

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