



THE TIMES OF INDIA



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STUDENT EDITION

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2020



THIS DAY, THAT YEAR

On December 12, 1952: Willem J Koff and his team at Ohio's Cleveland Clinic removed the heart from a dog and replaced it with a pneumatic pump which kept the dog alive for 90 minutes, proving the viability of an artificial heart.

CLICK HERE: PAGE 1 AND 2

FASHION

THE BIRKIN

This Saturday is the opening of "Bags Inside Out" at Victoria & Albert Museum in London. The exhibition is all set to explore the function, design and craftsmanship, of the accessory that carries our stuff, but can mean so much more—aka the humble handbag. It would feature 300 bags, including former British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's despatch box, and the Fendi 'Baguette' carried by actress Sarah Jessica Parker in 'Sex and the City'.



An old Birkin on display at Victoria & Albert Museum

1983, Hermès chief executive Jean-Louis Dumas was seated next to Jane Birkin on a flight from Paris to London. Birkin had just placed her straw travelling bag in the overhead compartment for her seat, but the contents fell to the deck. Birkin explained to Dumas that it had been difficult to find a leather weekend bag she liked. And the Birkin was born.

THE BAG HAS BEEN REPUTED TO HAVE A WAITING LIST OF UP TO SIX YEARS

HOW TO PRONOUNCE HERMÈS? eh-mez. Hermès is French, so the 'h' is silent. While usually in French if a word ends in 's' it is silent, the grave accent on the second 'e' means that the 's' is very softly pronounced.

WHAT: The Birkin bag (or simply, Birkin) is a line of tote bags by the French luxury goods maker Hermès. Birkin bags are handmade from leather, and the line is named after English actress and singer Jane Birkin.

HOW IT STARTED: In Jane Birkin, the actor and singer who inspired the iconic bag



Birkins are distributed to Hermès boutiques on unpredictable schedules and in limited quantities, which creates artificial scarcity and exclusivity. The bags have also flooded the upscale resale market and are sold in second-hand boutiques and through social media.

TRAVEL

A cosy 'hot cuppa' kind of break, a sporty sojourn or a daring mountain safari... what's on your winter holiday list?



Pics: iStock

THRILL IN THE CHILL

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SEEKING SNOW LEOPARDS

Spend this winter setting out on the trail of the elusive big cat that's intrigued conservationists and filmmakers all over the world. Tiger safaris suddenly seem last season with adventure travellers booking mountain safaris to chase the endangered snow leopard! They don't mind the cold, unforgiving terrains of Spiti and Ladakh to get that one fleeting sight of the 'mountain ghost'. The best site to spot the cat is Hemis National Park in Eastern Ladakh that is home not only to snow leopards but also other rare species, like blue sheep, argali (a large horned sheep), numerous mountain and migratory birds, as



BEST TIME: Dec-Feb

well as an occasional Tibetan wolf. Chances of snow leopard sighting are stronger in winters since this is the time they descend to lower elevations in search of food.



BEST TIME: Jan-March

HIGH ON HELI-SKIING

Get over your latent acrophobia this winter. How? Have a go at Heli-skiing. This adventurous winter sport is not just about navigating thick snow but also getting over your fear of heights. The helicopter leaves you at the top of a snow-capped peak, and from there, you just have to crisscross your way downward. The sport challenges the thrill-seeking explorer in you, as you have to ski down through unknown routes and ridges. Some of the best locations to enjoy this winter activity are, of course, Gulmarg in Kashmir and also Hanuman Tibba, Deo Tibba in Uttarakhand and Rohtang Pass and Chandrakani Pass near Manali. Skiing equipment you would need are skis, boots, sticks, gloves and goggles, most available on hire at the skiing destination.

BEST TIME: Dec-Jan



OLD WORLD CHARM

Misty views, fragrant tea plantations and an overall dreamy spell in the air. Kurseong is a perfect cosy nest in the winters with its small town and non-commercial vibes. Check into a nice bed and breakfast accommodation attached to the various tea plantations — Castleton, Makaanbarie, Ambotia and Goomtee — so that you can enjoy an endless supply of home-grown teas over your stay. Makaanbarie Tea Estate also offers visitors an insight into its history, the art of tea processing and a tea garden trek. Bring your walking shoes along. There are numerous short walks along leafy hillsides lined with hydrangeas and azaleas and the adjoining tea estates.

BEST TIME: Dec-Jan



RETHINK

REST ASSURED

Therapist Tasha Bailey on seven types of rest we all need

1 PHYSICAL REST: It is exactly as it sounds. Bailey wants people to ensure the body can recharge by allowing it to slow down and repair. Taking naps, going to bed earlier than usual, doing yoga and taking out time to have your lunch peacefully can be some types of physical rest.

2 MENTAL REST: Taking a break to recharge mentally when we feel it's difficult to concentrate. For example, unplugging from gadgets, trying positive affirmations or playing your favourite music.

3 EMOTIONAL REST: It refers to offloading emotional baggage. Share your emotions with someone whom you love — friend or family. Or try talking to a therapist.

4 SOCIAL REST: Social rest refers to, restoring ourselves through connecting with our tribe and mentors. To put it in simple words, social rest means reconnecting with yourself.

5 CREATIVE REST: To keep yourself energised and find more inspiration, taking a break from creativity is important. You can simply read a book, go for a walk. Cleaning your work table and decluttering also helps.

6 SENSORY REST: Retreating from sensory overload by reconnecting with yourself is crucial. Turning off your gadgets, getting some fresh air and journaling can help you get some sensory rest. You can go for some outdoor workout.

7 SENSORY REST: We need this to feel anchored and realigned with our sense of purpose and harmony. Reading scriptures or philosophical writings, meditating and volunteering can help you get spiritual rest. Meditation and deep breathing is good too. TNN



LATEST BUZZWORDS EXPLAINED

Body Neutrality

Move over body positivity, it's about body neutrality now. The body positivity movement in its original form was the idea that you should love the skin you're in, regardless of its size, shape, colour, age, ability. But body inclusive advocates feel that the term was co-opted by marketing mavens who brought the focus on physical appearance again. So what comes next? Body neutrality or inclusivity. It means leaving behind the mindset of needing to lose weight or worrying about what you see in the mirror, to focusing on how you feel. It means not delaying your happiness until you reach your goal weight or achieve a certain look. Neutrality is about freeing up all the energy and attention that we devote to body anxiety so that we can focus on matters that matter instead.

WHAT I LEARN'T? Being relentlessly positive about our bodies forces us to regulate our emotions, stuffing the negative ones down deep



KNOW YOUR FOOD TOFU TIME

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Ancient find: Tofu was discovered about 2000 years ago by a Chinese cook who accidentally curdled soy milk when he added nigari seaweed.
Superfood: Tofu contains all eight essential amino acids and lots of protein. It is also an excellent source of iron and calcium and the minerals manganese, selenium and phosphorous.
Cancer-fighter: The soy protein in tofu may be beneficial for heart health, menopause and breast cancer.
Multi-faceted: Like cheese, there is more than one variation available. There is silken tofu, extra soft, firm, medium and extra firm too. Also, owing to its generally neutral taste, tofu is a culinary chameleon, lending itself to an infinite number of food preparations — it can be pickled, fermented, stir fried or even used in miso soup.
First things first: Tofu is packed with water, and then it is packed in water. We need to get that water out and replace it with



flavour. Not pressing the water out of the tofu is one of the biggest mistakes you can make.

Japanese Staple: In Japan, a common lunch in the summer months is hiyayakko — silken or firm Asian tofu served with freshly grated ginger, green onions with soy sauce. In the winter, tofu is frequently eaten as 'yudofu', which is simmered in a claypot with some vegetables.

Urban Legend: In China, tofu is traditionally used as a food offering when visiting the graves of deceased relatives. It is claimed that the spirits (or ghosts) have long lost their chins and jaws, and that only tofu is soft enough for them to eat.
Like a sponge: Tofu soaks up all the flavours you cook it with.
Historical note: One of the founding fathers of the United States, Benjamin Franklin was the first American to mention tofu in a letter dated 11 January 1770.
Serve as dessert: Silken tofu is very creamy, almost like custard. It is used to make delicious desserts — chocolate pudding to pumpkin pie to even cheesecake.

CAMPING IN COOL DUNES

A winter retreat in Rajasthan is ideal for those looking for a moderate winter. Flanked by the Thar Desert on the west, Jaisalmer bears a dry and hot counte-

#GOALS

Follow Your Passion

It's an advice often given but easier said than done. Here are some strategies from people who took a risk and landed on their feet

PRACTISE AND PRACTISE

You may not have heard of Paula Scher — one of the best graphic designers in the world today — but you'd know her work. She's the designer of the logos of companies such as CNN, Windows and Citi. She got here because she followed one age-old advice: Practice makes perfect. She had once said: "It took me a few seconds to draw it, but it took me 34 years to learn how to draw it in a few seconds."

FOLLOW YOUR GUT

Bestselling author Dean Koontz says that he would never advise people to write in groups or seek opinions for their writing as the criticism might intimidate. Listen to constructive feedback, but also realise sometimes your so-called support group might not be lifting you up.

USE EVERY HOUR

If one has to simplify it: there are no free lunches. We know that Bill Gates went to work in his garage and Microsoft was born. But it's not so simple. A younger Gates at 13 was an exceptional math student. When his school got a computer, he'd tinker with it during lunchtime until he knew how to program. He used his lunchbreak to acquire a new skill. How many times do we keep saying we don't have the time? Snatch the time from your free hours.

FAILURE IS A LESSON

Many might still know Victoria Beckham as a former Spice Girl but today she is known for her solo work as a successful designer. While trying to make it as a solo singer, she was lampooned by the critics and she realised singing is not her passion. She started designing clothes and after a few initial stumbles, today she's known for her brand. Sometimes failures can be turned into new lessons. If something doesn't work out, don't dwell on it for too long. Make your plan B into plan A — also a good time to have a plan B.

MAKE YOUR RULES

Ellen DeGeneres is a household name — NOW. But she had to start somewhere. For her first stand-up set, she went on stage and ate a burger. She went and tried something different. She experimented right from her first act and didn't play by the rules.



Bill Gates used his free time to master a skill, Victoria Beckham (right) worked on her plan B and Ellen DeGeneres (below) made her own rules

One trait all successful people have in common is that they went out there and did something

SELF-CARE

Cream de la creme WHY YOU SHOULD USE MALAI FOR SKINCARE

Love it or hate it, malai has lots of beauty benefits. Here's how you can use it...
It's the best natural moisturiser for the skin. Malai goes deep into the skin and repairs the damaged tissues.
In a face pack Mix some honey into malai and apply it on your face to get the glow back. Leave it for 15 minutes and wash off with lukewarm water. Pat dry and don't use any lotion.



For de-tanning Malai can help to brighten your skin as it is a natural de-tanner because of the lactic acid present in it.

For fighting dark spots Mix malai with 1 tsp lemon juice and apply. Once it dries, wash your face off with normal water.

For anti-ageing Our grandmothers used malai on their faces as cream regularly. The protein and vitamins present in malai initiate the production of collagen, that can prevent ageing. TNN

As cream Duh! This thick cream layer of fat is super rich in fat, hence

CONFUSING WORDS

Hi friends. We are **HOPPER & CROCKY**. Words that sound alike or share similar (but not identical) meanings are easy to misuse. Here are a few of the most common pairs with correct definitions and examples:

BLATANT/FLAGRANT

It's best to use "blatant" for offence that is glaringly obvious, without care, brazen.
Example: When the judge heard the defendant's blatant lie, he became very angry.
Best use "flagrant" to emphasise a serious breach of law or regulation.
Example: Amit's flagrant violation of the law earned him a life sentence in prison.

EVERYDAY/ EVERY DAY

"Everyday" is an adjective meaning "commonplace, ordinary or daily."
Example: I don't like these everyday dresses they sell in that shop.
"Every day" is an adjective modifying a noun meaning "each day".
Example: I cycle to school every day.

COMPLEMENT/ COMPLIMENT

A "complement" is something that completes something else. It's often used to describe things that go well together.
Example: Nisha's lime green boots were a perfect complement to her jacket.
A "compliment" is a nice thing to say.
Example: I just wanted to compliment you for the wonderful speech you gave tonight.



YEARS EXPERIENCE / YEARS' EXPERIENCE

Years experience" is always incorrect. "Years' experience" is the correct form. It's the possessive form meaning "years of experience" or "experience belonging to years". **Example:** He has 5 years' experience as an airline pilot.

FURTHER/ FARTHER

"Farther" means distance, "further" means more into it. If you're talking about distance, it has to be "farther."
Example: The assistant asked some further questions.
Example: The nearest house was much farther than she thought.

AWHILE/ A WHILE

"Awhile" is an adverb meaning "for a short time" and is used to modify verbs.
Example: She played the piano awhile.

"A while" is a noun phrase consisting of the article "a" and the noun "while" and means "a period or interval of time". It is often used with a preposition.
Example: I'll be coming in a while.

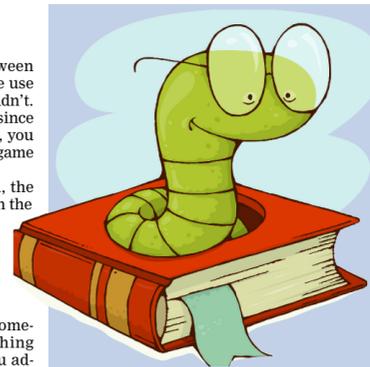


SINCE/ BECAUSE

There's often a lot of confusion between "since" and "because." Sometimes we use them interchangeably and we shouldn't.
Example: "I came home since the game was over." No, you came home because the game was over.
Since time immemorial, the exhibit has been found in the archaeological site.

ENVY/ JEALOUSY

Envy means when somebody else has something that you want or you admire or you really like.
Example: I am envious of his ability to play basketball.
Jealousy, being jealous, typically means something that we're holding close that we have already and we want to keep, we want to protect, we don't want anybody else to have it. It's often used in a romantic sense.
Example: Somebody is looking at your friend, you might be jealous.



NOR/ OR

"Nor" must be used with its counterpart, "neither," just as "either" and "or" stick together. Just think of them as best friends.
Example: He hadn't done any homework, neither had he brought any of his books to class.

ALREADY/ ALL READY

The word "already" is an adverb meaning "prior to a specified or implied time" or "as early as now."
Example: The plane had already left for the airport.
All ready is a two-word phrase that means completely prepared. We use it to say that something, someone, or everyone in a group is completely prepared.
Example: The teacher is all ready for class.

BANAL/ BLASÉ

Banal means common in a boring way, to the point of being predictable; containing nothing new or fresh.
Example: Because the movie's plot was banal, we knew exactly how the film would end.
Whereas, blasé means apathetic to pleasure or excitement as a result of excessive indulgence or enjoyment.
Example: After going on eight cruises, I am blasé about the whole cruising experience.

TENET/ TENANT

A tenet is a principle or belief held to be true. A tenant is a person who occupies a land or dwelling.

CLOTHES IDIOMS

FINE-TOOTH COMB

MEANING: In great detail, extremely carefully.
EXAMPLE: We need to go over these files with a fine-tooth comb to find that missing paperwork.

OFF THE CUFF

MEANING: Said casually and spontaneously, without planning or preparation.
EXAMPLE: I hadn't prepared a speech so I just said a few words off the cuff.

RIDE ONE'S COAT-TAILS

MEANING: To benefit from someone else's success; to use someone else's success as a means to achieve one's own.
EXAMPLE: It was a group project, but everyone rode Andrew's coattails.

ON A SHOESTRING BUDGET

MEANING: On or within a limited financial budget.
EXAMPLE: The film was made on a shoestring budget.

CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH

MEANING: very

similar; possessing many of the same fundamental characteristics.
EXAMPLE: Julia and her mother are cut from the same cloth, as they are both so kind and sweet.

FLY BY THE SEAT OF YOUR PANTS

MEANING: To do something difficult without the necessary skill or experience.
EXAMPLE: He ran the business by the seat of his pants.

DRESSED TO THE NINES

MEANING: Dressed flamboyantly or smartly.
EXAMPLE: Jackie went out

dressed to the nines.

BELOW THE CLOAK-AND-DAGGER

MEANING: Using or involving secrecy, deception, or espionage, especially the kind portrayed in dramatic depictions of spying.
EXAMPLE: A great deal of cloak-and-dagger stuff goes on in political circles.

AT THE DROP OF A HAT

MEANING: Without needing any advance notice.
EXAMPLE: Don't let my brother watch any of those sappy movies—he cries at the drop of a hat.



Mispronounced WORDS

IT'S TIME TO GET THEM RIGHT!



- PREROGATIVE: pre-rog-a-tive, not per-rog-a-tive
- PEREMPTORY: per-emp-tuh-ree, not pre-emp-tuh-ree
- PROBABLY: prob-a-blee, not pra-lee or prob-lee
- REALTOR: reel-ter, not ree-la-ter
- supposedly: su-pos-ed-lee, not su-pos-ab-lee
- SPURIOUS: spyoor-ee-us, not spur-ee-us
- TENET: ten-it, not ten-unt
- TICKLISH: tik-ish, not tik-i-lish
- TRIATHLON: try-ath-lon, not try-ath-a-lon
- ATHLETE: ath-leet, not ath-a-leet
- CANDIDATE: kan-di-dayt, not kan-i-dayt
- CHIMERA: kiy-MEER-a, not CHIM-er-a
- DISASTROUS: di-zas-tres, not di-zas-ter-es

Words that are their own opposite

English language is filled with words that have reverse or contradictory meanings, depending on the context. Take a look

VARIETY: A watermelon is your favorite variety (one type) of melon. But keep in mind that your local grocer sells a variety (many types) of fruits.

WEATHER: You may have weathered (worn out) skin due to old age, but you may still be strong enough to weather (withstand) a storm.

CLIP: Clip can mean "to bind together" or "to separate." Clipping (joining) your notes together is not the same as clipping (detaching) your wings.

RAVEL: To separate or to become entangled

SEED: You seed (put in) the ground with watermelon seeds, and in time you will get the fruit. But remember to seed (remove seeds) them before eating.

SANCTION: A bank may sanction (approve) your loan. But may impose sanctions (prohibit) on you if you do not repay it in time.

HEW: Hew can mean "to cut in to" or "to hold to," as in "to hew the log in two" or "to hew to the line."

OVERLOOK: In certain situations, "overlook" might mean "to gloss over or fail to notice," as in "the detail that I overlooked," but in other situations, it might mean "to watch over," as in "the house overlooked the sea."

STRIKE: Strike can mean "to refuse to work" or "to act quickly and decisively."

BOLT: If you bolt the door it means you have secured it. But if your horse bolts it means it is time for a chase as the horse has unsecured itself.

The peculiar origins of TECH TERMS

The roots of some of the most familiar tech terms may surprise you

WIKI: Ward Cunningham, the developer behind WikiWikiWeb, the first wiki, chose the name based on a fond memory from a trip to Hawaii, taking the Wiki-Wiki shuttle at the Honolulu airport. The term "wiki-wiki" means, quite simply, "very fast," something Cunningham thought applied well to his new software.

BOOTING: This familiar term for starting up one's computer is actually short for "bootstrap." In the 19th century, the phrase actually meant doing something impossible—the term is believed to have derived from the 1785

book 'Baron Munchausen's Narrative of his Marvellous Travels and Campaigns in Russia' (the source material for Terry Gilliam's slightly misspelled film), wherein the title character uses his own hair to pull himself out of a swamp.

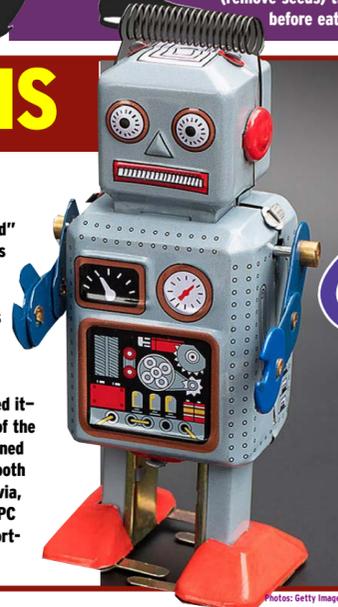
BUG: Here, sadly, is an example in which fiction is stranger than truth. The story goes that the term "bug," as it pertains to computers and other hardware, was derived from a 1946 incident in which the malfunctioning of the Mark II Aiken Relay Calculator, an early computer being tested at

Harvard, was traced back to a moth that had flown into the machine—hence there was an actual "bug" in the system. In truth, the term has been in use since at least the 19th century. In 1878, Thomas Edison used "bugs" to describe little faults and difficulties in his inventions.

NERD: Dr. Seuss: original nerd? The good doctor may not have finished medical school, but he gave the world of geek culture something far more profound: a four-letter rallying cry. The first written instance of the word occurs in the 1950 book 'If I

Ran the Zoo', which lists a "nerd" among the imaginary inhabitants of a made up zoo.

BLUETOOTH: The technology is named after the second King of Denmark, King Harald Gormsson. His nickname was "Blatand" in Danish, which means—you guessed it—"blue tooth." Jim Kardach, one of the founders of Bluetooth SIG, explained in an article: "King Harald Bluetooth was famous for uniting Scandinavia, just as we intended to unite the PC and cellular industries with a short-range wireless link."



Queries relating to language skills

Do you find grammar confusing? Do you get stuck with words when writing a letter, an essay or a blog? Do you have a fear of public speaking? Or do you simply want to improve your communication skills? Times NIE is here to help you to master the intricacies of the English language. Just shoot us your queries on toinie175@gmail.com



SANTA CLAUS is coming to town... in two WEEKS



Here are the best movies made on Father Christmas, according to movie buffs. Watch them with your family

THE SANTA CLAUS (1994)

After divorced dad Scott (Tim Allen), who has custody of his son (Eric Lloyd) on Christmas Eve, accidentally kills a man in a Santa suit, they are magically transported to the North Pole. An elf explains that Scott must take Santa's place before next Christmas. Scott thinks he's dreaming; but he isn't.



GET SANTA (2014)

A father and son team up to save Christmas once they discover Santa Claus sleeping in their garage, after crashing his sleigh and finding himself on the run from the police! Say what?



glitch a little girl's Christmas gift has been misplaced, he sets out on a mission to deliver the present before it's too late.

FRED CLAUS (2007)

Of the two Claus brothers, Fred (Vince Vaughn) is the troublemaker and polar opposite of his saintly sibling, Nicholas (Paul Giamatti). When Fred's criminal ways sends him to jail, Nicholas bails him out only on the promise that he'll go to the North Pole with him, and make toys.

THE CHRISTMAS CHRONICLES (2014)

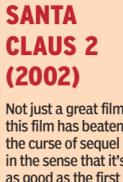
Naughty siblings, Kate and Teddy Pierce, hatch a scheme to capture Santa Claus on Christmas Eve. When the plan falls apart, they join forces with a somewhat jolly Saint Nick (Kurt Russell) and his loyal elves to save the holiday before it's too late.



— Screenrant.com; theguardian.com

SANTA CLAUS 2 (2002)

Not just a great film, this film has beaten the curse of sequel in the sense that it's as good as the first one, 'The Santa Claus'. Scott Calvin (Tim Allen), despite being Santa Claus, is in all kinds of trouble. His son appears in the annual "naughty" list, and he has to get married within a month! Or, he cannot remain Santa Claus anymore.



MIRACLE ON 34TH STREET (1994)

An old man named Kris Kringle (Edmund Gwenn) fills in for an intoxicated Santa in Macy's annual Thanksgiving Day parade, and becomes an instant hit. He becomes so popular that he becomes a regular. Till he starts claiming he's THE REAL SANTA! This leads to a court case to determine his mental health. Could it be true?



ARTHUR CHRISTMAS (2011)

When Santa's gawky son, Arthur, learns that owing to a technical



X-MAS AS A CHARACTER

Christmas is a time for hope, forgiveness, and love. Authors of classic novels have often used the season as an effective narrative device to spin magical tales. Here are some of the most intriguing ones:

LETTERS FROM FATHER CHRISTMAS BY J R R TOLKIEN

In this calligraphy picture book, the English fantasy author presented a collection of heart-warming letters that he wrote to his children every year at Christmas. All letters are from the point of view of either Father Christmas or a talking polar bear, and accompanied by the most whimsical illustrations.

THE VALANCOURT BOOK OF VICTORIAN CHRISTMAS GHOST STORIES BY TARA MOORE

A compendium of 13 ghost stories from 19th-century Victorian-era periodicals set around the theme of Christmas time.

THE SNOW QUEEN BY HANS CHRISTIAN ANDERSEN

Loved Queen Elsa of Arendelle in the film 'Frozen'? Then you'll love reading the original Danish fairy-tale gem that inspired the film. Reading about Gerda and Kay, the characters at the centre of Andersen's story of good, evil, and deep snow, must be accompanied by a cup of hot chocolate.

THE TAILOR OF GLOUCESTER BY BEATRIX POTTER

The story of a mousy tailor working on the mayor's clothes for a Christmas Day wedding is perfect to read aloud with the family.

HERCULE POIROT'S CHRISTMAS

And finally, if you love a good mystery, there is nothing better than reading about Hercule Poirot solving a murder. A Christmas time family reunion that ends in bloodshed is right up the notorious detective's alley.



What's a SITCOM?

Well, it's short for situational comedy – a television series in which the same characters are involved in amusing situations in each episode. To make it simpler, let's differentiate between any comedy and sitcoms. A comedy can be any show or film with humour and a happy ending. Sitcoms are made for television.

In a situational comedy, the plot is centred on a particular situation set in a typical setting – such as home or workplace. A situational comedy features a regular cast of characters, apart from recurring ones who appear in subsequent episodes, and some special guest stars. There are some sitcoms that are aired performed before a live studio audience, making it similar to a theatrical play. Start with any one among these four TV hits.

Seinfeld (1989)

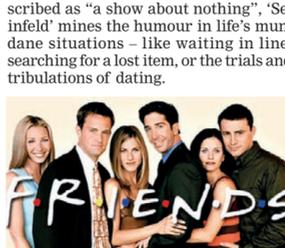
'Seinfeld' stars Jerry Seinfeld as a stand-up comedian, whose life in New York City is made even more chaotic by his quirky group of friends who join him in wrestling with life's most perplexing yet often trivial questions. Often described as "a show about nothing", 'Seinfeld' mines the humour in life's mundane situations – like waiting in line, searching for a lost item, or the trials and tribulations of dating.

Full House (1987)

The show chronicles the events of widowed father, Danny Tanner, who enlists his brother-in-law, Jesse Katsopolis, and best friend, Joey Gladstone, to help raise his three daughters in his San Francisco home. It aired from September 22, 1987 to May 23, 1995, broadcasted eight seasons and 192 episodes. This one is perfect to start with for young kids.

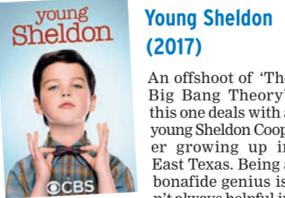
Young Sheldon (2017)

An offshoot of 'The Big Bang Theory', this one deals with a young Sheldon Cooper growing up in East Texas. Being a bonafide genius isn't always helpful in a land where church and football are king. And while the vulnerable, gifted and somewhat naive Sheldon deals with the world, his very normal family must find a way to deal with him.



Friends (1994)

This hit sitcom follows the merry misadventures of six 20-something pals as they navigate the pitfalls of work, life and love in 1990s Manhattan.



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Social networking

"Another idea that's central to 'The Road Ahead' – that technology would allow unprecedented social networking – has pretty much come to pass," notes Gates in his blog post. That said though, he was "surprised" how social networks have brought people together but also contributed to a more polarised atmosphere. Gates said he hadn't anticipated how people would choose to filter out different perspectives while sticking to their own views.

OLD ENGLISH WORDS WE CAN USE AGAIN...

Bedward: Heading for bed. It means exactly how it sounds.

Crapulous: Feeling ill as a result of too much eating/drinking.

Fauche: Fumbling things and making mistakes at work because you are exhausted.

Aptycock: A quick-witted or intelligent young man.

Cromph: To walk in shoes that are too large for your feet.

Crambo-clink: Also known as crambo-jink, this refers to poor quality poetry. Or, a long-winded and pointless conversation.

Flench: When the weather looks like it's going to improve but it never does.

Eloffk: Hair that is tangled, as if it has been matted by elves.

Source: lifehack.com; mentalfloss.com

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW THE KING?

- 1) What was Elvis Presley's first #1 hit on the US Billboard pop charts?
- 2) What single did Elvis record after filing for divorce from Priscilla on January 8, 1973?
- 3) Elvis memorised every line from what George C Scott movie?
- 4) 'Patton', the movie for which George C Scott won the Academy Award for best actor and famously refused to accept it.
- 5) What was Elvis' favourite sandwich?
- 6) Why is Elvis' mansion called 'Graceland'?
- 7) Which musician had once broken into Graceland?
- 8) What actress did Elvis always send flowers to when she opened a show in Las Vegas?
- 9) What was the first magazine that ever published an article about Elvis?
- 10) How many competitive Grammy Awards did Elvis Presley win during his lifetime?



BILL GATES, the digital Nostradamus



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In 1995, Bill Gates wrote and published 'The Road Ahead', a seminal book in which he made several predictions about the next 25 years of digital technology. Recently, in a blog announcing his upcoming book 'How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: The Solutions We Have and the Breakthroughs We Need', Gates offered a few reflections on his previous book. He wrote: "... We tend to overestimate the changes that will happen in the short term and underestimate the ones that will happen over long term." While Gates is "too optimistic" about some things, there are others that have happened faster than he had imagined. Among the things he got right are...

Online digital streaming platforms

Gates wrote: "Television has been around for fewer than 60 years, but in that time it has become a major influence in the life of almost everyone in the developed nations."

But Gates also understood the limitations of the medium. During the 90s, people routinely recorded programmes for later viewing or rented movies from video stores. He wrote: "Video-on-demand is an obvious development. There won't be any intermediary VCR. You'll simply select what you want from countless available programmes."

Back in 1995, he wrote about something he termed then as the "wallet pc" in 'The Road Ahead'. He noted: "It will

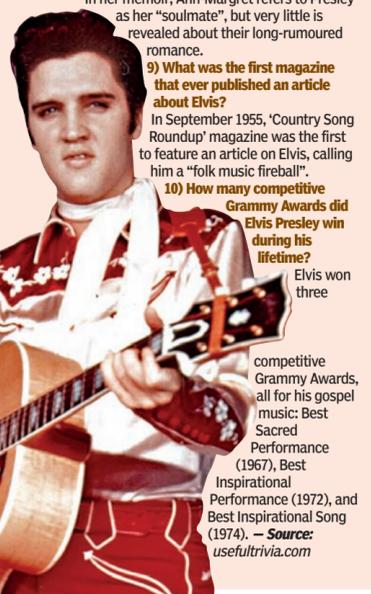
be about the same size as a wallet, which means you'll be able to carry it in your pocket or purse. It will display messages and schedules and let you read or send electronic mail and faxes, monitor weather and stock reports, and play both simple and sophisticated games. At a meeting, you might take notes, check your appointments, browse information if you are bored, or choose from among thousands of easy-to-call-up photos of your kids."

In addition to this, the "wallet pc" would be secured with a biometric; it would replace paying with paper money, and even "inform" you about the exit you are supposed to take on a highway. He wrote, this device would be cheap.

Smartphones (even got pricing right)

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competitive Grammy Awards, all for his gospel music: Best Sacred Performance (1967), Best Inspirational Performance (1972), and Best Inspirational Song (1974). — Source: usefultvivia.com

UNUSUAL SPORTS

There are some bizarre sports around the world you may not have heard about yet. You may find them odd but some of these sports have a massive fan-following and are taken seriously. Check out the list...



DOG SURFING

Dog surfing involves canines hanging out with their owners. More intensive dog surfing involves dogs doing tricks while their owners stand on the board. Unlike with human surfers, surfing dogs cannot be leashed or attached to surf boards during the competition. The first competition was held in 2006 at Loews Coronado Bay Resort at Imperial Beach California, US.



OSTRICH RACING

Ostrich racing originated in Africa and eventually made its way over to the United States. Ostriches can reach a surprising speed of around 70 kilometre an hour, and their legs can reach up to 16 feet in one single stride. During a game of ostrich racing, people sit on ostriches and race them around a track.



CYCLE BALL

This sport, which originated in Germany, is also called as 'rad-ball'. Cycle ball is a competition between two teams of two, played on bicycles with no breaks. Their goal is to get the ball into the goal using only their wheels and their heads. Players are allowed to use their hands on defense, but not on offense. Cycle ball is very popular in many European countries, and in Japan.

CHESSBOXING

The ultimate game of brain-versus-brawn where players quickly flicker between rounds in the boxing ring and bouts at the chessboard. To take home the glory, they must either coerce their opponent into a knockout or batter them into checkmate. Since 1992 the sport has gone global with countries like England, Germany, Netherlands, France, Russia and Japan, all embracing it.



QUIDDITCH

Quidditch started out as a fictional game for wizards in the popular 'Harry Potter' series. Fans loved the idea of quidditch so much that it soon became a real sport played internationally. A team is made up of seven athletes, who must play with a broom between their legs at all times. It borrows elements from rugby, dodgeball and tag.



ZORBING

Zorbing is the act of racing in a large, transparent ball down hills, through water, or other obstacles. Zorb is a ball, having a volume of 13 to 14 m and a weight of 75-80 kg. It consists of 2 layers: two spheres, differing in size, that are located just a little less than a meter from each other. The space between the outer and inner spheres is filled with air so that the total elasticity of the ball is maintained. The zorb tumbled into existence in the mid-1990s in New Zealand.



WIFE CARRYING

Wife carrying originated in Finland and made its way to North America in 1999. The rules stipulate that the woman must be over 17 years of age and weigh at least 49 kilograms. Despite the event's name, couples don't have to be married. Finland has established itself as a prime venue for unusual events that include the air guitar world championship and swamp soccer too.

ELEPHANT POLO

Elephant polo is just like regular polo, except on an elephant – it even requires the same equipment. This sport is popular in Nepal, India, and Thailand.



CHEESE ROLLING

During cheese rolling, a large cheese wheel is rolled down a steep hill, and competitors race after it. The first person to make it down the hill wins the cheese. The event takes place on Cooper's Hill, in the parish of Brockworth, Gloucester, UK. The main competitors are locals from the village, however, people have come from all over the world to take part in the unusual sport.

UNDERWATER HOCKEY

Underwater hockey is exactly what it sounds like – a game of hockey, but underwater. The British Navy invented underwater hockey in the 1950's to keep their divers fit and to improve their ability to move and work efficiently under water. The competitions in underwater hockey range for club to national to world titles. Every two years a world championship is held around April or May.



SEPAK TAKRAW

Sepak takraw, which originated in Asia, is like volleyball, except the players must use their feet to get the ball over the net. Players are allowed to use any part of their body to keep the ball in the air, except for their arms or hands.

SPORHOCKING

Sporhocking, also known as extreme sitting, began in Germany. The sport involves a participant performing acts which could be spinning, kicking, throwing, juggling, sliding, etc. and slamming their bottoms down on a stool at the end to show the manoeuvre is complete. The apparatus being used for sporhocking includes a colourful plastic stool with linings made of rubber.

Photo: dailymail

