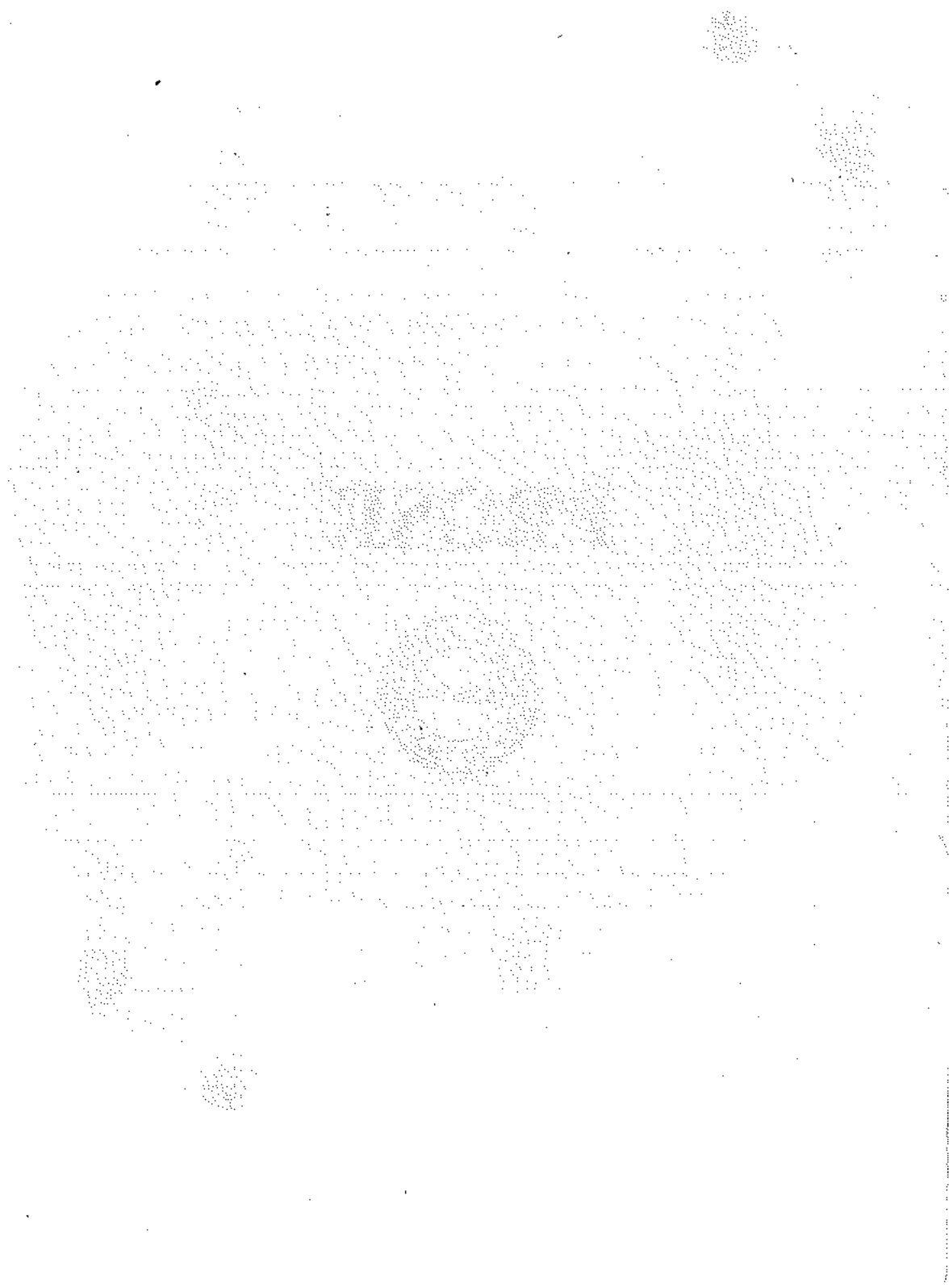




PROSE





THE PACE FOR LIVING

R. C. Hutchinson

R.C. HUTCHINSON, a British novelist, exhibits an exceptional flair for touching the sensitive issues of the contemporary society - with all its contradictions and paradoxes. In 'The Pace for Living', R.C. Hutchinson captures the agony of modern man. He brings out how the fast movement of men, things and objects hurts the normal rhythm and exerts undue pressure on men, women and children.

A. Work in small groups and do the following:

- 1. Talk to your friends and seek their opinion on the life-style of the modern youth, Ask them:**
 - (i) Do you find life leisurely or fast?**
 - (ii) Are you satisfied with what you see today?**

I saw a play in Dublin not long ago in which the chief character was an elderly corn-merchant in a small Irish country town. He was a man of many anxieties—his heart was dicky, his nephew was cheating him, his wife had the fantastic notion of spending £10 on a holiday. Altogether the pace of life was getting too much for him, and in a moment of despair he uttered a great cry from the heart: "They tell me there's an aeroplane now that goes at 1,000 miles an hour. Now that's too fast!"

For me that was the most enchanting line in the play - the man's complaint was so gloriously irrelevant to his own situation. And besides



being comic, it struck me as a perfect illustration of the way the Irish get at subtle truths by the most unlikely approaches. You saw what the old fool meant.

Not that I have any dislike of rapid movement myself. I enjoy going in a car at ninety miles an hour - so long as I am driving and so long as it is not my car. I adore the machines that hurl you about at Battersea. To dine in London and lunch in New York next day seems to me a most satisfactory experience: I admit it excludes all the real pleasures of travel - the sort of fun you get from a country bus in Somerset or Spain - but it gives you a superficial sense of drama; it was a sort of excitement our ancestors had to do without, and we might just as well accept it gratefully. No, where speed becomes something unfriendly to me is where the mental activities of our time tend - as they naturally do - to follow the pace of the machines.

I speak with prejudice, because I belong to the tribe of slow thinkers, those who are cursed with *l'esprit de l'escalier*: people who light on the most devastating repartee about four hours after the party's over. I am one of those who are guaranteed to get the lowest marks in any intelligence test, because those tests or all the ones I have come across seem to be designed to measure the speed of your mind more than anything else. Obviously we slow thinkers are terribly handicapped in the business of getting a living. But what I am thinking about just now is not so much the practical use of one's mind as its use for enjoyment.

As an example, when I go to the cinema I find myself in a hopeless fog, and after two or three minutes I have to turn to my wife for enlightenment. I whisper: "Is this the same girl as the one we saw at the beginning?" And she whispers back: "No, there are three girls in this film - a tall blonde, a short blonde, and a medium-sized brunette. Call them A, B, and C. The hero is that man who takes his hat off when he comes



indoors. He is going to fall in love with girls B, C, A in that order." And so it proves to be. There you have a mind which has trained itself to work in high gear-though as a matter of fact it can work in other gears just as well. But my point is that most of my fellow-patients in the cinema do think fast enough to keep up comfortably with rapid changes of scene and action. They think much faster than people did thirty years ago: possibly because those who do not think fast in the High Street nowadays may not get another chance in this world to think at all.

B. Answer the following question briefly:

1. Where did the writer watch the play ?
2. Who was the chief character in the play ?
3. Does the writer dislike rapid movement in every field?
4. In which situation, does the writer find himself in the cinema?
5. How does the writer classify himself as a thinker ?

GLOSSARY AND NOTES

dicky(adj): weak-hearted (colloq in expression)

fanciful(adj): highly imaginative

despair(n): state of hopelessness

enchanting(adj): having the power to cast a spell

illustration(n): example

adore(v): worship, love and respect

superficial(adj): pertaining to the surface only

prejudice(n): a pre-conceived notion

devastating(adj): damaging

blonde(n): a woman with coloured hair and usually blue eyes

brunette(n): a woman with brown or dark hair

C.1 LONG ANSWER QUESTIONS

1. Write a few sentences about the elderly corn-merchant.
2. "They tell me there's an aeroplane now that goes at 1,000 miles an hour. Now that's too fast!" What light does the remark of the corn-merchant throw on the fast life today?
3. What sort of excitement do we have today which our ancestors lacked? Is it an advantage or a disadvantage?
4. Who are taken to be slow thinkers? How are the slow thinkers, handicapped today?
5. What enlightenment does the writer seek from his wife? What does it suggest about the plight of the modern man?
6. Summarise the central idea of this essay.

C. 2. GROUP DISCUSSION

Discuss the following in groups or pairs:

1. Life has become too fast today.
2. The fast life of the western society is compelling the westerners to turn to India.

C. 3.COMPOSITION

- 1 Write a letter to your mother about a hectic day that you spent.
2. As the secretary of the Drama Society of your school, write a notice to invite the students to watch a play in Hindi. Mention the title of the play, its writer, the venue and the time.

D. WORD STUDY

D.1. Dictionary Use

1. Correct the spelling of the following words.

| | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| funtastic | anestors | complent |
| greatfully | ninty | garantid |

D. 2. Word- Formation

Look at the words of Latin or Greek origin and the way new words are derived from them without adding any prefix or suffix :

| | | |
|-----|------|----------|
| eg. | mind | -mental |
| | long | -lengthy |
| | king | -royal |
| | ears | -aural |
| | eyes | -ocular |
| | moon | -lunar |
| | sun | -solar |

Use these new words in your own sentences.

D. 3. Word- Meaning

Match the words in column A with their meanings in column B.

| | |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| A | B |
| notion | a group of people of the same race |
| despair | a pre-conceived idea |
| illustration | state of hopelessness |

A

gratefully

tribe

prejudice

B

example

with a feeling of gratitude

an idea

E. GRAMMAR**Look at the sentences given below:**(i) *I enjoy swimming.*

Swimming is an object here.

(ii) *Swimming is a good exercise.*

Here swimming is the subject of the sentence.

(iii) *My job is swimming.**Here swimming is a complement.*(iv) *My friend is fond of swimming.*

Here swimming is the object to preposition.

(v) *I saw him, the swimming god, moving swiftly across the deep and fast current.*

Here swimming is an apposition to pronoun 'him'. It is obvious that swimming is used as a subject to an object, a complement, an object to a preposition and an apposition to a pronoun.

The verb ending in '-ing' (here, swimming) which functions as a noun is called a gerund or Verbal Noun; it can be used as a subject to a verb, an object to a verb, a complement, and a noun in apposition.

Ex.1. Use the Verbs as gerund given in brackets:

(i) Tom stopped (work).

- (ii) My father doesn't enjoy (go) to a doctor.
- (iii) (See) is (believe)
- (iv) I like (swim) in this river.
- (v) (Fly) planes is not an easy job.
- (vi) I like (watch) games.
- (vii) I don't like (wait) here for an hour.

Ex. 2. Look at words taken from the lesson which begin with a capital letter.

Dublin Batternsea, London, Somerset , Harish, John,
Stuart , Red Fort, Taj Mahal, High Street, Spain.

These words are the names of places, persons or objects. They are known as proper nouns. The first letter of a proper noun is always capital. Now, correct the following sentences using capital letters wherever necessary:

1. I went to delhi and stayed there for three days.
2. I spoke to rajan about my visit to mysore.
3. We went to delhi university via aruna asaf ali marg.



Ex.3. Read the following sentences from the lesson.

I whisper, "Is this the same girl as the one I saw at the beginning?" And she whispers back: "No there are three girls in this film".

Mark that the first letter of the first word within inverted commas (direct speech) in both sentences is capital. Now, correct the following sentences, using capital letters wherever necessary.

- (a) I said to John, "do you see films ?"

- (b) John said to me, "my brother is ill".
- (c) Mohit said to his father, "please get me a new shirt".
- (d) Rajindra said to his brother, "do not waste your time in idle gossiping."
- (e) Sanjay told his mother, "in delhi I will buy a handbag."

Ex. 4. Look at the following sentences:

- (a) I said, "Is this the same girl as the one we saw at the beginning?"
- (b) I asked if that was the same girl as the one we had seen at the beginning.

Mark the differences between the two sentences -

the one (a) in the direct speech and the other (b) in indirect speech:

- (a) Reporting verb 'said' in (a) is changed into 'asked' in (b)
- (b) The inverted comma ("...") in (a) are omitted in (b)
- (c) 'this' in (a) is changed into 'that' in (b)
- (d) 'we saw' in (a) are changed into 'we had seen' in (b)

we can, therefore, infer the following rules for changing direct speech into indirect one:

1. If the reporting clause (clause which is not within inverted comma; i.e., "I said" in the sentence (a) above) is in the past tense, the tense of the Reported speech (clause which is within inverted comma; i.e., "Is this the same girl as the one we saw at the beginning?") is changed into the corresponding past tense; e.g.,

- (a) He said, "I play football." (Simple Present Tense)
= He said that he played football. (Simple Past)

- (b) She said to me, "Rekha is singing." (Present Continuous)
= She told me that Rekha was singing. (Past Continuous)
- (c) Ravi said, "I have seen a tiger." (Present Perfect)
= Ravi said that he had seen a tiger. (Past Perfect)
- (d) My friend said, "It has been raining for five hours." (Present Perfect Continuous)
= My friend said that it had been raining for five hours. (Past Perfect Continuous)
- (e) He said to me, "I saw a tiger" (Simple Past)
= He said to me that he had seen a tiger. (Past Perfect)
- (f) He said to me, "I was playing." (Past Continuous)
= He said to/ told me that he had been playing. (Past Perfect Continuous)

2. The person of the pronoun used in Reported Speech is changed as follows:

- (a) 1st person in reported speech is changed according to the person of the subject of the reporting clause; e.g.

He said to me, "I saw a tiger."

= He said to me that he had seen a tiger. ("I" changes into "he" because the subject of reporting clause is "he")

- (b) 2nd person in reported speech is changed according to the person of the object of the reporting clause; e.g.

He said to me, "You have been selected for the job."

= He said to me that I had been selected for the job. ("You" changes into "I" because the object of the Reporting clause is in the first person)

(c) 3rd person pronoun in the Reported Speech is not changed.

He said to me , “ She has been selected for the job.’

= He said to me that she had been selected for the job.

3. Words showing /expressing nearness are generally changed into words showing/expressing distance; e.g.,

| | | |
|-----------|---|--|
| now | - | then |
| here | - | there |
| ago | - | before |
| last | - | previous |
| this | - | that |
| today | - | that day |
| tonight | - | that night |
| yesterday | - | the previous day |
| tomorrow | - | the following day/ the next day |
| | | a day before yesterday - two days before |
| | | a day after tomorrow - in two days' time |
| | | next week - the following week |

Ex. My friend said to me, “I shall meet you tomorrow.

My friend said to me that he would meet me the following day.

or

My friend told me that he would meet me the next day.

4. There are certain rules which are specific to certain sentences - Assertive, Imperative, Interrogative, Optative and Exclamatory.

5. Assertive Sentence: to change an assertive or declarative sentence into indirect speech, we have to make changes as follows:

a. Change the reporting verb say (said) into tell (told) if it is followed by an object; e.g.

My friend said to me, "I shall meet you tomorrow."

= My friend said to me that he would meet me the following day.

or

My friend told me that he would meet me the next day.

b. Don't change the tense of the reported speech if it is a universal truth or a scientific fact; e.g.

My friend said to me, "Water boils at 100°C."

My friend said to me that water boils at 100°C.

Ex. 5. Change the following statements into indirect form of speech:

1. My mother said, "It may rain."
2. I said, "I can do it."
3. The culprit said to the judge, "I am innocent."
4. Mukul said to me, "You don't help me."
5. Vinayak said to Amar, "You will play tomorrow."
6. Rajan said, "You are doing well."
7. My teacher said to me, "You are doing well."
8. "We shall help the poor," Arif said to Lata.
9. "He does not sing well," the teacher said to the Principal.
10. She said, "He has not seen the Taj Mahal."



11. My teacher said, "The Sun rises in the east."

F. ACTIVITY

1. Make a list of the items which have made human life luxurious and fast.

G. TRANSLATION

Translate the following passage into Hindi-

As an example, when I go to the cinema I find myself in a hopeless fog, and after two or three minutes I have to turn to my wife for enlightenment. I whisper: "Is this the same girl as the one we saw at the beginning?" And she whispers back: "No, there are three girls in this film - a tall blonde, a short blonde, and a medium-sized brunette. Call them A, B, and C. The hero is that man who takes his hat off when he comes indoors. He is going to fall in love with girls B, C, A in that order." And so it proves to be. There you have a mind which has trained itself to work in high gear-though as a matter of fact it can work in other gears just as well. But my point is that most of my fellow-patients in the cinema do think fast enough to keep up comfortably with rapid changes of scene and action. They think much faster than people did thirty years ago: possibly because those who do not think fast in the High Street nowadays may not get another chance in this world to think at all.
