

An Exploration on the Footprint of Verbal Ability in Cracking the Streak of Engineering Placements

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ABSTRACT

“The exigent that many people face when rapport with others is that they deficient the indispensable interpersonal skills demanded to be effectual.”

-Robert. W. Lucas

Of all the survival skills accessible to us, communication is certainly, the most empowering. To confirm this, the most reputed educational institutions across the country bequeath their wards the open communicative competencies with their academic, scholastic knowledge. Many a branded corporate organizations is recognized to hook up with those institutions and during campus interviews and other recruiting processes, they quest for impending human resources who exhibit such competencies otherwise called life skills, a contrivance to pledge positive business outcomes and beneficial results. In identifying with this, a proposition on communication skills, utilizing a consistent and reliable teaching-learning modus operandi is mandatory. Concurrently, a report by Aspiring Minds alarmed that more than 90 per cent engineers in our nation could not able to communicate in English, requisite for challenging jobs in corporate zone. Moreover, only 6.8 per cent engineers show the caliber to respond spontaneously and about 67 per cent engineers do not have English verbal abilities and so they are not fitting for any professional job. It is accentuated that the professional students should have a satisfactory amount of acquaintance with employability skills to contend in recruitments. With the due prominence specified on

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looking at present and target situational needs, this paper reveals insight into the paramount importance of emerging verbal abilitude, i.e. the coalition of ability and aptitude, to gratify the recruiters in the placements in the contour of engineering.

I. INTRODUCTION

**“Face the beam; the shades will tail you on your foot”
- Walt Whitman.**

In today’s techno-crafty competitive world, a bitter reality to be digested is that due to the magnification of globalization and the spreading out of Multi-national Corporations (MNC), the commercial sectors think beyond their curtails and in turn it confronts the recruit’s caliber in career excellence. The mere domain knowledge ensures the alumni, the robust in a work spot. To expose the best with others in the pitch of profession, he needs to assimilate and empower himself using an efficacious key, the communication skill, a base tool of interpersonal skills, to give tough to his competent. Using right words at right time, a life skill, accomplishes marvel and it comes only by live out, that is, “CommYOUnication” – come to unite for thriving in profession. It is crystal clear that soft skills would make an individual stick out and arrive at the skyline of career excellence.

With an experimentation, the Aspiring Minds’ report “The National Spoken English Skills of Engineers,” has unveiled its result, which demands the instrumentality for directing a course on communication skill, in the line of professional course is prerequisite to improve appropriate survival skills. Correspondingly, to fulfill the communicative stipulations of the industry, the educational organizations fix the Career Guidance setup to endow with employability skills training and organize job fairs by welcoming renowned companies to recruit their qualified wards. In placement cell, upgrading communication skills is mainly concerned and the task is facilitated by the English faculty members of the departments.

In fact, the androgogues are in the position of completing the course and much sought to look for placements. Moreover, many students from different locales have a serious lacuna in exploring their proficiency. To regulate this, a separate awareness session on placement is being done in the second year itself. The prime objective of the session is to make the students understand the purpose of learning English Language.

As a part of the forum, spoken and written aptitude test is conducted. This aids the faculty members to assess the students’ skill levels, learning difficulties, preferable strategies and styles in language learning. To be precise, it is found that the origin of poor performance of students in communicative competency starts from the lack of verbal ability such as vocabulary, grammar, comprehension and so on. In

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relating to this, an inimitable curriculum on communication skill is intended for the third year engineering by more or less all the engineering colleges.

An aggregate of 45 hours (weekly 3 hours) for fifteen weeks is functioned as practical for developing communication skills. Employing experiential learning strategies is given significance as equal as scrutinizing the verbal and written tasks for enhancing effective communication skills. This course is a practical lab class led in two different labs namely language lab and career lab.

English Language Lab:

“Saying leads in zooming, screening coordinates recalling; involving illuminates grasping.”

Practicals always energize autonomous sophistication and also formulate the andragogy to be included in practising grammar, vocabulary and pronunciation tasks. That is, a pragmatic stratagem can carry out this assignment of connecting the students to make use of the gadgets in language lab engaging the class energetic and interactive. Students are able to complete the reading and listening appreciation exercises within the precise time.

Career Lab:

"A majority of the world is poised with individuals who have something to lucid however can't, and the other portion who have nothing to utter but keep on saying it." - Frost. R

In this practical lab, the students are geared up to expansively encompass the following assignments. They need to be expressive and communicative.

Speaking	Writing
1. Self-introduction	1. Cover letter with CV/ Resume
2. Group Discussion	2. Report writing
3. Interview Session	3. Project proposal
4. Non-technical Presentation	4. Article writing
5. Technical Presentation	5. Mini- project Writing

As it is questionable that, in all the domestic industries, the recruitment rounds and procedures are not undefined, the feedback of faculty members assists with extemporizing the students' employability competency.

When the graduate finds to be beneath the typical and tight in concerning the affirmed titles, they are boosted to choose broad and recognizable topics to present on. In first few trials of performances, students are allowed to make errors. But progressively, they are partitioned for speaking and writing apposite language and predictable to utilize a refined language in all the communicative tasks.

A PROPOSED MODULE: VERBAL ABILITY – ABILITY AND APTITUDE:

It is not your aptitude, but your attitude, that determines your altitude.

Apart from the communicative course, where the students are encouraged to speak and write functionally, students should be given a full-fledged package of linguistic skills for language aptitude test, i.e. the placement verbal aptitude demands the candidates to be acquainted with the essential grammar and compatible with reading comprehension to solve the related questions.

Keeping this in view, in this proposed module, the focus is shifted on etymological and discourse competence commonly known as verbal aptitude, one of the toughest sections in placement tests. The students should self-investigate their needs in subject knowledge and conveyance mode. Appropriate language and communication strategies ought to be applied to commit the students realize the actual mistakes they commit, their lacks and inadequacies and what actually they have to learn in the course. The students can be consistently monitored to get practice in all verbal genres, structures and markers. Apart from the academic knowledge, the undergraduates ought to get hold of a bird's eye-view to compete with other entrants. This vocal segment includes prime topics such as **Lexis, Verbal Reasoning, Inferential Reasoning, Grammar, Reading Comprehension, Jumbled Paragraphs and Paragraph Completion**. It comprises inquiries to be unraveled rapidly without any formula and calculations. Appropriate reading speed and a deep knowledge of vocabulary are notable ideas to keep the score up in verbal aptitude. As an average reader can scan up to 300 words per minute, the aspirant should have double the range of recognition than that of the average reader.

Vocabulary:

Lexis serves as the paraphernalia of communication; not a proxy of action.

- Vocabulary questions test the candidate's knowledge of literal and contextual implications of words, idioms and phrases, associated words, synonyms and antonyms, etc. The structure of sentences is one of the significant constituents in verbal aptitude section.
- **For instance:** "The criminal was gotten, charged and needed to pay a fine," appears to be right sentence linguistically yet according to the syntax of the parallel structure, it should be changed to "The criminal was gotten, charged and fined".
- Also, the understudies ought to be coordinated to learn new words like dubious (meaning ambiguous), which is hard to recollect however might be significant for placement.
- Mounting the amount of words in mind storeroom is the pandora's box of verbal ability.
- Selective, intensive and extensive reading helps for understanding the meaning of the word and the context where it has been used.
- Besides, analyzing the origin of new words, the structure of roots, word affixation such as prefix, suffix, clipping, compounding, portmanteau are the fundamental factors taken for consideration and they should be documented in a separate note regularly.

First you learn and comprehend the meaning of what you say, before you pronounce.

Example: Word can be formed and enlarged in the ways such as

- 1) By **Imitation** or **Onomatopoeia** - Bang, pop, buzz, click, whiz, rumble, mumble, hiss, giggle
- 2) An older word is given new significance (**Extension**)
Pedant = School master one who displays
Board has 6 meanings such as plank of wood; a table, committee, written device, etc.
- 3) **Consignments of places.** Eg. Above
The sky is above us. (Adverb)
Read the above Para. (Adjective)
- 4) By addition of **prefixes and suffix:**
International, submarine, introvert, extrovert, forbid, invert, subvert - prefix
Kingship, scholarly, womanhood, pavement, length, dukedom, penniless - suffix
- 5) By **syncoption:** Eg. Pram, the word is derived from the origin of Latin word Perambulator.
- 6) **Limiting the letters:** Eg. PLUTO, NATO, WHO, UNICEF, COBOL, etc
- 7) **Back formation:** Shortening the word by articulating the first-syllable. Eg. Beggar – beg
- 8) **Corruption or misunderstanding:** Good bye – God be with you
- 9) **False Etymology:** Posthumous – coming after in order of time
- 10) **Slang Words:** Bet, pinch, trip etc.
- 11) By **Abbreviation:** Eg. Nazi – National Socialist, Mob – Mobile Vulgus, Cab - Cabriolet
- 12) By **Portmanteau words:** Part of one word is combined with another to form a new word. Eg. Brunch – Breakfast + Lunch

To develop strong vocabulary, the techniques are:

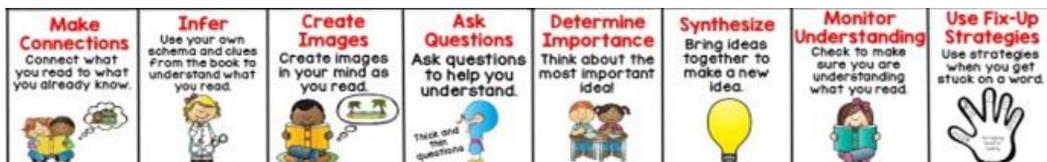
- **Spotting** an arduous and challenging word power.
- **Capture Attention:** Engaging with aids such as audio, video and word pictures.

Reading comprehension:

It is highly impossible applying the literal meaning of the words instead of comprehending the contextual meanings of the words given in Reading Comprehension passages.

Tips to be followed to answer the comprehension are: Skim through the passage, grasp what the focal idea of the substance, then read the questions given, scan the answer from the passage and choose the best answer.

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Inferential reasoning

In this section, four sequentially ordered statements will be given and they can be classified as either a fact, inference or a judgment. Inferential reasoning questions are arguably one of the most confusing topics in most of the aptitude tests. There will be a chance of pitfall on even small details that can lead the students to select the wrong answer.

Effective strategies to tackle inferential reasoning questions:

- Identifying the fact,
- Rephrasing the words and
- Eliminating the wrong answers

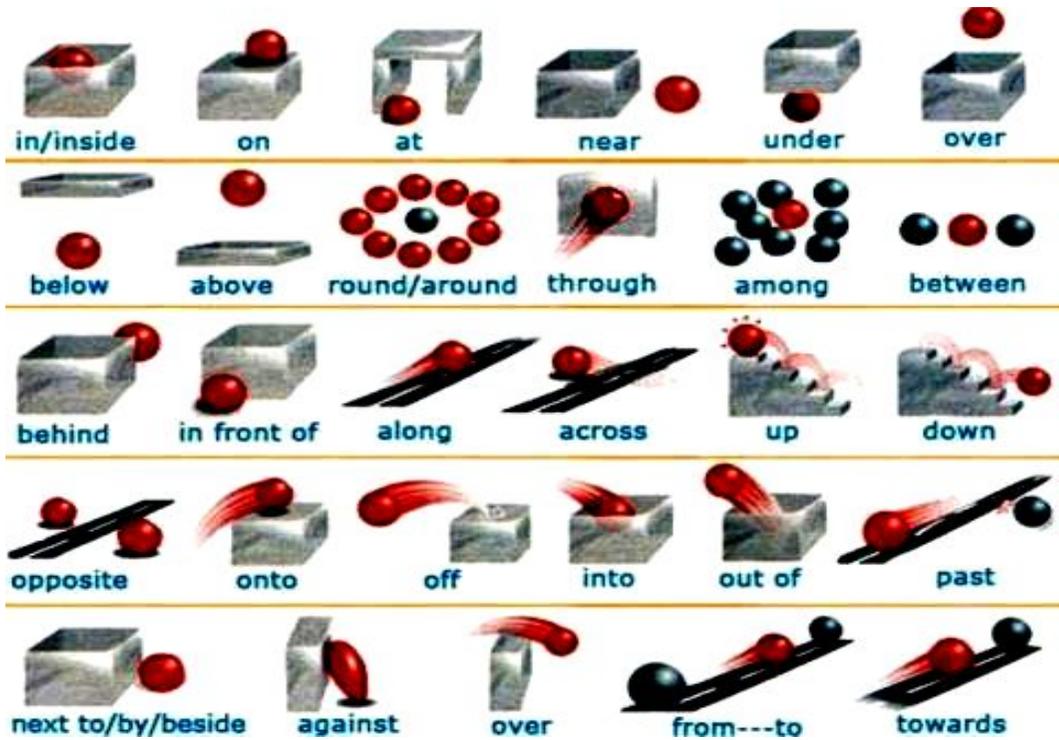
Verbal Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning is an ability differentiating the Intelligence Quotient from the Emotional Quotient. For decision-making problems, one can try to solve it fully or by getting close to the partial decision, i.e. which may pacify to his heart. Verbal Reasoning questions test the students' potential to code the patterns or relationships within the sentences or a group of words. It kindles the students' interest to find out the series or relationship of the words. In verbal reasoning questions, the students may be given short passages of texts to be interpreted before answering the questions on.

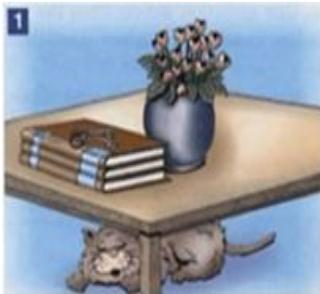
Grammar

Grammar-based questions test the candidate's command over the grammar of English language which includes key topics such as articles, pronouns, prepositions, conjunctions, infinitives, gerunds, tenses, voices, phrases, clauses, modifiers, subject-verb agreement, parallel construction, sentence correction, sentence completion, punctuation, etc.

For example, preposition, in separate word,



In sentence,



There is a vase **on** the table. There are some flowers **in** the vase. The cat is **under** the table. There are some books **next to/by/beside** the vase. The keys are **on top of** the books.



The dentist's is **above/over** the travel agent's. The travel agent's is **below** the dentist's. A man is walking **past** the travel agent's. A woman is walking **across** the street. A boy is cycling **along** the pavement.



The bus is going **from** London to Heathrow Airport. The bus driver is leaning **against** the bus. There is a man **at** the bus stop. He's taking some money **out of** his pocket.

II. CONCLUSION

Common mistakes by students in this verbal section that can be avoided are:

Weak Vocabulary: Understanding the contextual meaning of the reading comprehension passages is the main objective.

Poor Grammar: As the syllabus is vast, it is vital to memorize or understand the rules and syntax of grammar topics and practice more.

Slow Speed: In placement test, the passages will not be interesting – they are long, dull and philosophical.

Poor Time Management: Attempting the vocabulary question first is the key to getting good scores, either the candidate knows or not. Comprehension questions followed by grammar-based questions will be the right strategy to save time in placement tests.

Hence, to be evolved in such a great manner in placement, put the verbal abiltude module into practice increases one's confidence, lowers stress levels, allows learning from mistakes and helps to answer each question faster.

III. REFERENCE

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