

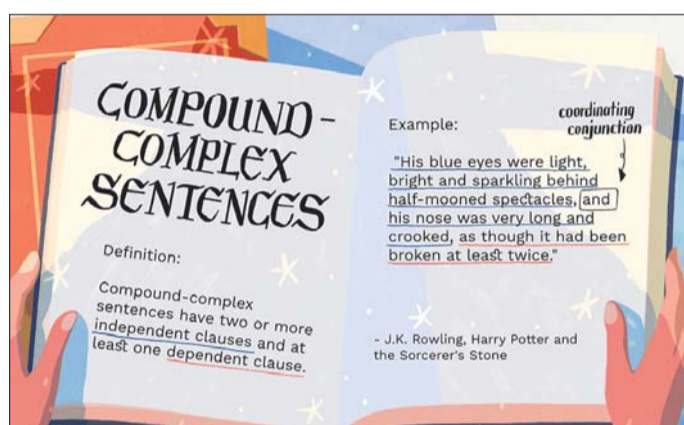


Picture a world where everyone can easily use and enjoy the vast wonders of the digital universe, no matter their abilities. That's the vision behind **Global Accessibility Awareness Day** (GAAD), a special day that lights up the digital world with a clear message: "access for all." Imagine trying to navigate the internet with your eyes closed or not being able to hear a video or over a billion people with disabilities; these challenges are part of daily life. GAAD aims to change that. It's a call to arms for creating websites, apps, and tech tools that everyone can use.

#INSIGHT

Fascinating Linguistics Terms

Cutthroat compounds are less bloodthirsty than they sound



Grade school English teachers do their best to send you off into the world with at least a cursory understanding of how language works. Maybe, you can tell your dependent clauses from your independent ones and your transitive verbs from your intransitive ones. Maybe, you're even pretty savvy at distinguishing between basic rhetorical devices, hyperbole versus oxymoron, simile versus metaphor, and that sort of thing.

But unless you majored in linguistics in college or routinely spend your free time reading grammar blogs, there's a whole world of words to describe language mechanics that you're probably not aware of. Here are some of our favourites, from formal terms like 'amphiboly' to colloquial ones like 'eggcorn.'

Amphiboly
Amphiboly, or amphibology, occurs when a sentence or phrase's grammatical structure lends itself to multiple interpretations. There are countless ways in which this kind of ambiguity can happen. Maybe, the placement of a prepositional phrase makes it unclear what that phrase is modifying, as Groucho Marx exploited in this classic joke, "One morning, I shot an elephant in my pajamas. I don't know."

Or maybe, it's not obvious which part of speech a certain word is functioning as, which happens fairly often (and sometimes to hilarious effect) in headlines. In "Eye Drops Off Shelves," for example, drops is a noun, but the headline takes on a different meaning, if you mistake it for a verb. Ambiguous headlines are their own subset of amphiboly, colloquially called 'crash blossoms.'

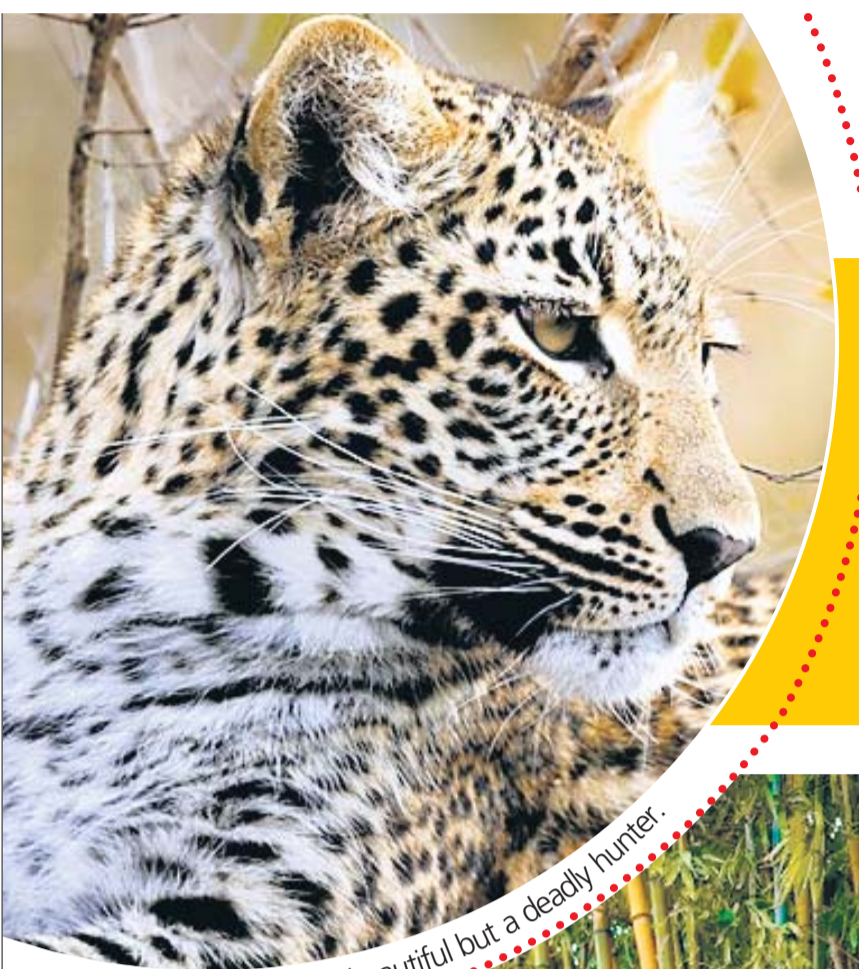
Back-formation
We usually think of word formation as taking a root word and adding affixes, (like pre-

fixes and suffixes) so that the resulting word is longer than what you had before. From friend, you can make friendly, friendship, and befriended. But it doesn't always work that way. *Back-formation* is the process of creating a new word by removing affixes.

Example: "His blue eyes were light, bright and sparkling behind half-mooned spectacles (and) his nose was very long and crooked, as though it had been broken at least twice."
— J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone

Cutthroat compound
Plenty of *compound words* include the subject (also known as the head) within the compound itself. Watermelons are melons, bluebirds are birds, and bedrooms are rooms. But there are also eccentric compounds, in which the head isn't part of the actual term. A specific class of these compounds involves an action (verb) being performed on an object (noun). A cut-throat, for example, isn't a person who cuts a throat, literally or figuratively. Scarecrows scare crows, daredevils dare the devil, and so on. Though they're formally called 'agentive and instrumental eccentric verb-noun (V-N) compounds,' historical linguists, Brianne Hughes, gave them a much catchier nickname, *cut-throat compounds*. And while they're formally common in English, you might start noticing them in unexpected places. Technically, William Shakespeare's surname counts as a cutthroat compound, 'one who shakes a spear.'

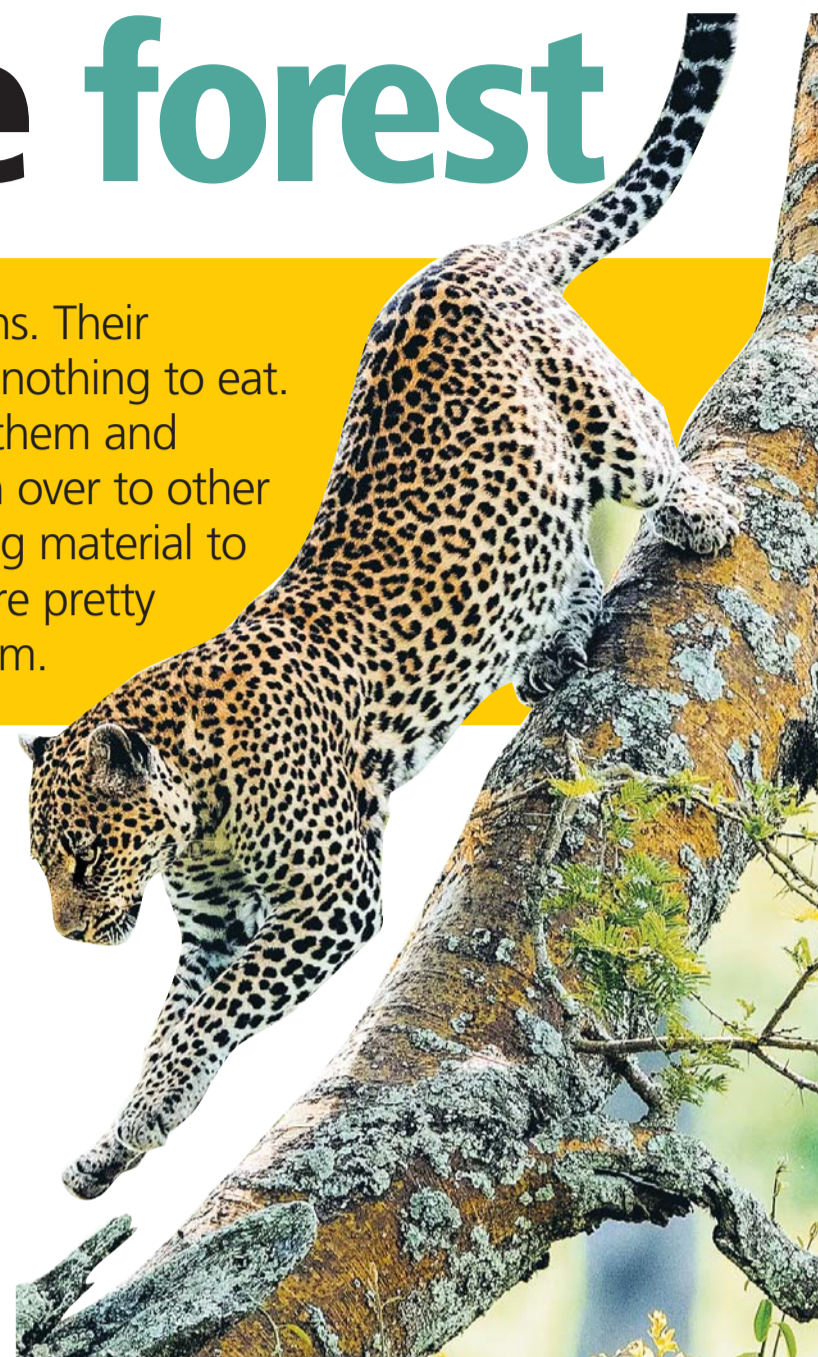
Eggcorn
Eggcorns are misheard expressions that actually make sense, e.g. deep-seeded instead of the technically correct version, deep-seated, and free reign rather than free rein. The term, coined by linguist Geoffrey Pullum, is a nod to acorn's history of being misheard as eggcorn.



Leopard, strikingly beautiful but a deadly hunter.

Leopard in the forest

They are pure-hearted people and have no greed like city denizens. Their needs are very little and they cut / sell trees only when they have nothing to eat. Learning this fact, on one hand, duty-bound, I caught several of them and penalized as per law but the same time sensitized them to switch over to other ways like selling minor forest produce items, especially herbal drug material to be used in *ayurvedic* medicines. The results of our persuasion were pretty encouraging. This also helped in improving our relations with them.



They survive on nature and the forest produce growing in their neighbourhood. Yet, they bear no complaints as long as they are not disturbed by the so-called 'civilized town people', in the name of development.

Peculiarly, the tribals like to live, not in clusters but at distance from others. They prefer to take separate hillocks for their huts. Children after marriage do not live with their parents and therefore make their huts on separate hillocks, even prior to their marriage. My staffers used to joke that these tribals, in this regard, are just like the British, who used to live in bungalows placed at distances from others.

The dry *tikkad*, with mouth-burning *chatani* and buttermilk had filled my tummy to optimum, and its tranquilizing effect made me dozing once again. But I was not lucky enough to continue this siesta long as two tribal youths appeared, with the news of a fresh carcass of a cow's calf at *Kala Khet*, at about a kilometer from this hut. Without losing any time, we immediately started with them. On the way also, I found a nearly finished carcass. Perhaps, this victim too was a cow's calf. Further half-a-kilometer from here towards *Jakhm*, we reached *Kala Khet* and found the carcass for which the tribals had come. This half-eaten carcass was lying on a small island, formed by the seasonal river. Also, there was a shallow pool of water in this stream in three small pockets. We thoroughly checked and at one place found not only pug marks of this clever predator but also its body marks, to tell the tale that the leopard had not only rested here once but several times.

We searched for the animal, following its pug marks but the trail ended in the thickets of the mixed *jungle*, dominated by all-size teak trees. The floor, full of hand fan like huge dry teak leaves, had concealed the leopard's trail.

Either the leopard had hidden, seeing us approaching this side or had moved from this unfinished prey hours back, to appear back on the hill after dusk.

The first dwelling was about half a kilometer from this carcass and I decided to enquire from people there, if the leopard had mauled any tribal. The route was undulating but highly picturesque. There, on a hillock, we found a small hut and Sukhiya, its owner, who too had seen few kills of cow's calves in recent past in his vicinity. Shortly 3-4 other neighbours gathered on Sukhiya's hut, who too confirmed what Sukhiya stated but added that in last fortnight, several dogs had disappeared mysteriously I knew for sure it meant only one thing that the poor dogs had fallen victim to none else but the leopard on prowl, in this part of the forest for last fortnight or so. My assumption was based on the knowledge that dogs are a favourite feast of leopards.

Learning that the killer had not attacked any human being gave me a great relief, after all in *jungles* like these, bereft of wild animals including rhesus or *hanuman langours*, the leopard is bound to thrive on anything in sight, preferably these cattle and dogs. But the high number of kills, in such a short period of time, was a puzzle for me. Maybe, there were more than one predator. Tonight could be helpful in unfolding this mystery.

To be continued...

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Bamboo forest.



Leopard on prowl for live food.



Timber smuggling on carts in tribal areas.

falling under his jurisdiction. The forest under his charge, bordering *Chhoti Sadari* range, was most vulnerable for theft of teak wood and bamboo. The entire *Deogarh* and *Chhoti Sadari* ranges were inhabited by tribals, largely dependent upon earning their livelihood through selling these produces, into neighbouring markets of *Chhoti Sadari* and *Dadi Sadari*, from where the timber smugglers used to smuggle them out to townships/ cities like *Nimach*, *Mandsaur*, *Nimbaheda*, *Chittorgarh* and *Udaipur*.

Stopping this 'illicit felling' by the tribals was a herculean task because tribals, involved in this crime, were too many and fellings were being done in a scattered way by individuals. Also, they were car-

ried under shrubs. The cat was playing too smart. Sensitivity of the *Nakedar* towards peoples' genuine problem was something which impressed me very much.

In a meeting with some elderly staffers, having much more field experience, I charted out a plan to trap this big cat on prowl in *Saripipali-Baraawarda* belt.

I made three groups from the available staff and included 3-4 tribal youths in every group. The 1st group was to camp at *Saripipali* and 2nd one at *Baraawarda* to comb the concerned forests, surrounding the *adivasi* settlements, having cattle stock large enough to attract the predator. I decided to camp at the 3rd site, located close to the under construction *Jakhm Dam*. Today, this dam is an important part of the *Sitamaha Sanctuary*, very famous for flying squirrels, but those days, it was merely a part of *Bhairava Reserve Forest Block*.

Mathuralal was in this 3rd group, led by me. He was a young and highly energetic boy, who loved climbing hills and treading rough forests. We spent around seven hours in search of some evidence indicating presence of the leopard.

Though, we found number of carcasses at different locations but none could give clue to presence of the cat that we were looking for. In fact, most of these carcasses seem



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ly nature, I am a wanderer, and blessed to get 'forestry' as profession. Postings in *Mewar* region, during initial years of service, was another blessing. Those days in 1970s, these *Mewar* forests, falling under Forest Divisions of Udaipur:

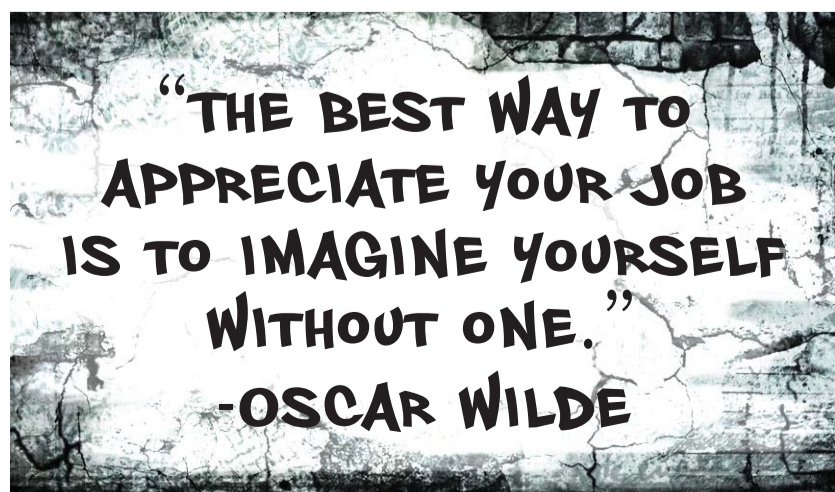
Sirohi, Banswada, Dungarpur and Chittorgarh, were pretty rich in diversity as well as denseness. All these forests were inhabited by tribals, the real *adivasis*, very different in culture and values compared to us, the so-called 'civilized city-bred people.'

For want of basic infrastructure, life was pretty tough those days. At *Deogarh*, there was no electricity, no proper residence. An ordinary room without any toilet facility, located adjacent to my office room, was my bedroom. So, it was like permanent camping at my headquarters. But I enjoyed this posting to my heart's content as *Deogarh*, a huge range, had one of the finest 'teak and bamboo forests'



Mahua Trees: Important part of Tribals' life system.

THE WALL

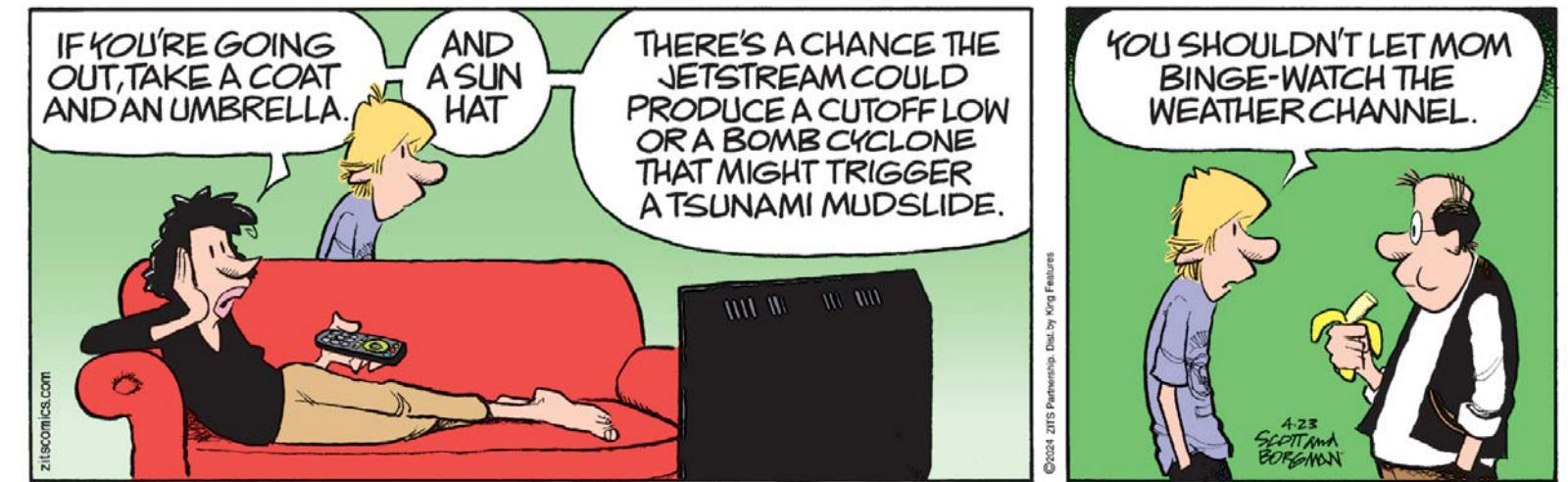


BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

Base	Backformation
Donation	Donate
Emotions	Emote
Television	Televise
Insertion	Insert