

English Translation Skills

Translation is an art, and, like all other arts, it is difficult to convey the exact meaning of what is expressed in one language into another. We must first be able to understand exactly what is intended to be conveyed, and then to express the very same thought in the other language. You should avoid from unnecessary detail and vague expressions.

Some Important Hints:

- 1. First read the passage carefully, marking all such words or phrases as you do not clearly understand. Remember that words do not have a fixed meaning. You have to find out exact words, then you will be able to translate the sentence or paragraph.***
- 2. But avoid literal translation. You are never required to give a word-for-word translation. If you do so, you will not be able to convey exactly the meaning and intention of the writer. Then it will be absurd translation.***
- 3. Do not use unfamiliar words. Choose only such words as you know well.***
- 4. Try to avoid the use of many words when a single word, rightly chosen, will do. The whole art of translation lies in the careful choice of exact words.***
- 5. If a sentence is long, break it up in your mind in three or four shorter sentences, and then translate them into English.***