



Winsome 'Checkmate'

Chess enthusiast **Vantika Agrawal**, AIS Noida, X C, with a FIDE title of World International Master (WIM) and the only player to have won 4 awards in a single event is a true chessmaster. **Rimjhim Sayana**, X B & **Gaurika Wahal**, IX L, AIS Noida, interview the star.

The QUEEN of the game

"Currently I am one of the top ten chess players in India."

Two of my greatest achievements have been winning WIM Norm on March 31, 2017, and the IIFL Tournament. And what makes these achievements even more special is the fact that both coincide with my parents' birth-

days. There is nothing like bringing home a trophy on your parents' special days. But it is not to say that being 2nd in India in under sixteen, 3rd in Asia and 11th in the world is not special in itself. Being one of the best players in India feels unreal. Meeting the President was another unreal experience. He was very welcoming and friendly.

The KNIGHT in shining armour

"My mother is the one who supported me."

My mother has encouraged and supported me through my journey. She is the one who helped me maintain my momentum. She kept me driven since I was seven. Another big inspiration is Magnus Carlsen, who I admire to no end. A big part was played by Amity in recognising my talent and helping me become who I am now.

The KING of techniques

"I observe the middle game as it is the most important phase."

While most people memorise the opening game, I like to focus

on the middle game. I feel it is the most important phase of the game and it helps me not to falter when the opponent makes an unexpected move.

The ROOK can take you wherever

"My land of dreams is my escape."

While I devote a huge chunk of my time to chess, I also like to spend my time dreaming. My dream world is my escape because there I can do whatever I want with no restrictions. Doesn't every teenager want that?

The PAWN can change the game

"Learn from your mistakes after you lose the game."

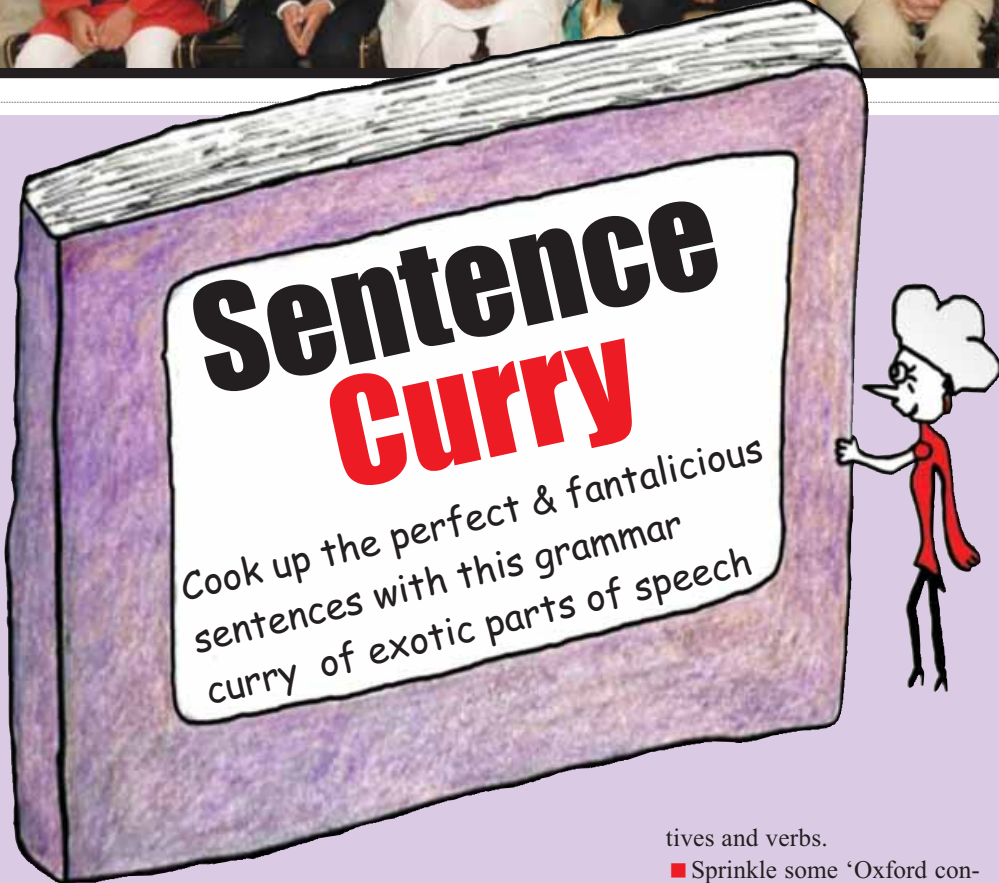
One of the best advice I have been given is 'learn from our mistakes after you lose the game'. It is not possible to always win nor lose all the time. Both victory and defeat teach us valuable lessons. But losing teaches you a lot more. We have to learn from these ex-

periences rather than brood over them. A good player knows how to rectify his/her mistakes. Another advice I would like to give young chess players is, don't give up! Work hard and you will accomplish your goals. Don't stray from your path and learn from your experiences. This goes for both academics and extra-curricular activities. Stay focused!

Pic: Caitanya Singh Jaswal, AIS Noida, X B



Vantika Agrawal (extreme right, first row) with President Ram Nath Kovind



Sentence Curry

Cook up the perfect & fantalicious sentences with this grammar curry of exotic parts of speech

Mugdha Jain

AIS Gur 46, X G

Writing is an art, much like baking where the right recipe is the key to success. Here, we bring to you the golden recipe of writing proper sentences.

INGREDIENTS

Noun / Pronoun100g
Verb50g
Articles4-5 pieces
Adjective2 tsp
Adverb 2-3 drops
Preposition 1 cup
ConjunctionA pinch

PROCEDURE

- Start by adding 100g of a noun or a pronoun in the mixing bowl. This will form the subject of your sentence, the basis of your recipe.
- Add 50g of verb, plural or singular flavour, as per noun. A verb is the soul of a sentence; it cannot live without a verb. Remember that the verb depends on the subject.
- Add 2-3 teaspoons of adjectives. These will give your sentence a puff, and make it more exquisite.
- Now add 2 drops of adverbs and a cup of prepositions. They act as modifiers and complements the nouns, adjectives and verbs.

tives and verbs.

- Sprinkle some 'Oxford conjunction powder' which will give you a smooth and tasty transition from one part of the sentence to the other.
- Stir all these ingredients slowly with a pen.
- When the batter is ready, remove the bubbles of punctuation errors and cook all these together in the oven called the 'mind' for some time. Let it set till it reaches the desired form.
- Garnish the sentence with spring of articles, as per the requirement.

Voila! your perfect sentence is ready. Serve it hot on a beautiful parchment. Make more sentences dish out delectable prose, poems & stories!

The perks of bad handwriting

Improve your handwriting, write legibly, practice cursive, are just few diktats which adorn my life

Akshara Iyer
AIS Noida, XII I

I have a bad handwriting. Actually, 'bad' is an understatement- my handwriting doesn't even qualify as writing: it looks like chicken scratch. I can barely understand it, and I most definitely expect my teachers to understand every word written on my answer sheets. While I often joke about it, deep down I'm actually terrified of the consequences of a bad handwriting. But some of us, despite our hard work and cursive writing books, just aren't able to achieve that Guptaji-ki-beti level of good, or at least legible handwriting. So after zillion attempts at trying to write as per the standards of readable handwriting and having failed to do so, I'm done apologising for my penmanship. Embrace the scrawl, I say. Believe it or not, bad handwriting is not all that bad. I am at the winning side of the table for

so many reasons!

- No one bothers to steal my notes because they can barely understand what's written.
- I can always say that I've written something else, manipulate the picture, and blame my poor handwriting for it.
- I've actually been let off the hook for spelling mistakes loads of times because the reader doesn't notice them- they're busy trying to decipher my writing.
- Messy handwriting is a sign of exceptional

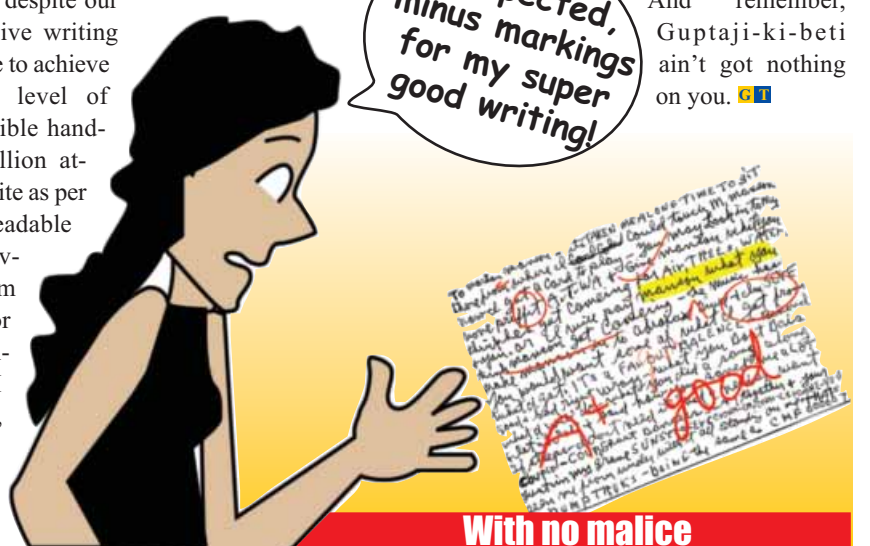
creativity and originality. So I'm too busy being a genius to listen to the rants about my handwriting, sorry.

■ Girls are born with better motor skills than guys, leading to Apsara-esque handwriting. So the next time someone complains about your ratchet handwriting, blame your DNA!

So there we go: Actual, scientific reasons to explain bad handwriting. Scribble to your heart's desire and embrace the beauty of your style.

And remember, Guptaji-ki-beti ain't got nothing on you. 🇮🇳

I expected, minus markings for my super good writing!



With no malice