

# Over to quizzing

A quiz master needs to be a performer. He must understand his audience thoroughly and keep his eyes and ears open to new things

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Curiosity killed the cat, but it made the quizzier rich! From beer bottles and live ducks to jeans and shoes to laptops and foreign holidays, quizzes offer tons of expensive swags up for grabs. In today's knowledge-driven world, quizzing is no longer just another intellectual pursuit - it's a realistic and, sometimes, even lucrative career option. As the story goes, a theatre manager James Daly, once declared he could invent a new word and overnight make it part of English language. Daly hired street urchins and beggars to mark the word on every city wall. The word was **quiz**, and by the next day everyone was asking what it meant. The 'act of asking' became the meaning of the word. Quizzing is an endless mind

game; it's addictive, it's inately fascinating. It becomes delightful with a heady mix of information and entertainment. As a quizmaster, one needs to be a performer. You have to be a quizzier first in order to know what it feels like on the other side. A good quiz master understands his audience thoroughly. He keeps his eyes and ears open. One must take interest in varied subjects; one must have an apti-

### Must for quizmasters

- Flawless language skills
- A fair sense of timing
- A ready wit
- Good sense of humour
- Situation handling skills
- Well informed/ well read
- Stage presence
- Constant innovation
- Be a good host
- A decent personality

tude that allows to assimilate and store a lot of information, and essentially, an ability to recall them whenever required. Good quizzers are also voracious readers. Opines Lloyd Saldanha, researcher and quizmaster Greycaps, "A quizmaster needs to understand his audience and be an entertainer at heart. He needs to have a good sense of humour." If not a quizmaster, you can be a Researcher. A lot of professional quizmasters have dedicated research teams working on the content. The questions have to be well-researched, double-checked and well-framed. Being a Quizzer is also an informal career today. However, mere awareness will not fetch you success, rather, applying a fair amount of lateral thinking is important. In one of the quizzes I attended, a question was, 'Which Indian city has got its name when

Lord Shiva showered divine nectar from his matted locks?' Though clueless, we figured out that the suitable Hindi word for 'nectar' would be *madhu*. Thus, we guessed Madurai and it turned out to be right! Giri Balsubramniam 'Pick-brain', quiz master from Bangalore feels, "Quizzing needs constant innovation and an endless thought processes. For those passionate about quizzing, this is the right time to get going." So, if you discover that you know more than your friends, remember that it's not just something to be proud of - it's something that can become your career! ●



## The spelling strategy

Presenting a fun way to learn your spellings

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Learning spellings seem to send most kids into a tizzy. In fact, students who otherwise excel in language abilities, may experience strong and debilitating difficulties in spelling. The way most of us use our brain is very similar to using only one finger of the hand. Here's a fun way to enhance the learning of spellings.

### New or difficult words

1. Look at the correct spelling; move your eyes left (if you are right handed) and right (if you are left handed) and visualise the spelling in your favourite colour on a favourite background.

For eg. If you want to learn the spelling of pneumonia, see pneumonia written in red colour on the background of the night sky. To make it more appealing, you can mentally play your favourite tune also; remember things that make you feel good.

2. Look at your mental image and verbalize or write the letters you see. Check whether what you have written is the



When learning a new or difficult word, form an image of the word in your favourite colour and back-

correct spelling. If any of the letters are missing or are incorrect, return to step 1.

3. Next, look at the mental image and spell the word backwards.
4. Compare what you have verbalized or written with the correct spelling.
5. Identify any of the letters that did not naturally appear in your image or were not clear.
6. If any letters are missing or incorrect, go back to step 2 or use the handy hints to clarify your mental image.

### Handy hints

1. Trace the letters of the spelling to be learned with your fingers. This technique utilizes kinesthetic sense along with the visual image of the spelling, hence makes it easy to learn spellings.
2. Change the quality of letters that are difficult to visualize. Such letters can be made brighter, put in another colour and background or made bigger.
3. Break the word into groups of letters (typically groups of three). These groups or chunks do not need to be in the form of syllables or phonological units. The purpose of these chunks is simply to help build the image of smaller pieces. ●

## Top of the tops

# Cracking the

CBSE boards are a tough nut to crack, feel most students. Well, if they follow a disciplined and systematic approach and make judicious use of the time in their hands, that's all it takes to attain top scores. Read on to see what the toppers of Amity have to say...



### Science

"Science is one subject that calls for loads of practice. I practiced different kinds of questions and numericals. I memorised all the facts and specific points related to different topics. I also practiced all graphs and Biology diagrams at least once in a week. I got my presentation style for each answer checked by my teachers."

Rishabh Vinayak Das, AIS Gurgaon 43,  
Science: 98

### Economics

"It's important to give to the point answers in Economics. Some chapters like demand and supply require a thorough practice of diagrams. I took practice tests regularly to know my strengths and weaknesses."

Shwetha Balachandran, AIS Noida  
Economics: 98

### Sanskrit

"I would study Sanskrit regularly and since I had the subject from class VIth, I formed a good foundation in the basics. I learnt the meanings of most Sanskrit

words, besides reading the NCERT book thoroughly. My grandmother also gave me useful tips."

Aditi Upadhyay, AIS Gur 43,  
Sanskrit: 97

"I followed a systematic approach to the subject and practiced 10 years sample papers. My teachers gave me assignments and mock tests from time to time which boosted my confidence. Practising different types of questions definitely gave me an edge during the exams."

Shivangi Gupta, AIS Gur 43,  
Sanskrit: 97

### Hindi

"I read all the chapters nicely to remove all doubts. I did a lot of practice for grammar, paragraph writing and letters through assignments and class notes. The book M3K (Maximum Marks, Maximum Knowledge) is a great one for Hindi."

Amrapali Rao, AIS Gur 43,  
Hindi: 92

After all, the board is just another examination. A little dedication, a little perseverance, and you are ready to bell the cat! ●

## Counsel's Korner

I am 4'10" in height. Most boys in my class are around 5'5" and some over 6'. I feel terrible walking with others and hate the nickname 'pint size.' I've begun to withdraw from crowd and detest school. My grades show a marked decline.

Ankit, 16

Instead of bothering too much about your height, try to develop confidence in yourself. Look forward to stalwarts like Sachin Tendulkar and Aamir Khan and "Hitch your wagon to the stars to achieve success!"

I was invited to my friend's sixteenth birthday bash. But, I found my brother

dressed up to go with me. I knew it was my parents' way of playing safe. I was furious, but my desire to go to the party was stronger than the disgust of having a kid brother along. How can I convince my parents that I'm big enough to handle myself?

Tara, 15

Understand your parents' concern. Instead of being furious with them, make



P S Jamwal

them understand your point not in an aggressive but polite and respectful way. Also, you can behave in a mature and responsible manner, and give them a chance to build faith in you.

My friend Pratyush has become impossible in class. He is like a jack-in-the-box, always running out. He is poor in studies, does not get along with his parents. Of late, he has become

excessively stubborn.

Anuj, 12

Have you spoken to your friend? Try to find out why he is behaving in such a manner. Your friend might be facing some problem which is bothering him. You have to be extremely patient and understanding in realizing his view. Take him into confidence that you will not let his secret out and seek some elderly help to sort out his cause of concern. ●