Finally, mums and dads, be proud of that fact that Babu broke his arm while playing cricket and winning for his team! Small things like this add up to teaching you group work, confidence in front of an audience and healthy competition. Believe me, that is exactly what you will need in the next couple of years.

Don't be scared, it's actually real fun presenting your work in front of the class and making everyone in the room listen to you for a change. This brings me to another point. Try to learn how to use Microsoft PowerPoint if you can. You will eventually learn it but this has become the prominent tool to presenting yourself front of your professors in University these days.

The bottom line is that you should clearly know what you are about to face. Sure, you can always change departments, but isn't it better not to waste any time?

It's true though that a lot of girls study in this field thinking that they can eventually become a school teacher, teach for a few years and then get married. Well even though it is for a mere certificate, we should still make sure that the CGPA on it looks impressive enough (even though it's there to electrify the future in laws). Also keep in mind that learning English means instant access to journalism, positions in NGOs, media, and various other sectors. English means communication and you know that globalization cannot survive without communication right?

But what remains astonishing is that even after the intense years of studying the subject, more than fifty percent still fail to use English with confidence. The reason? They spent the entire time memorizing all of Ramji Lall's and other critics' analysis of the materials. We should really splash some heart breaking news to all the parents out there about making their children turn into walking-talking-memorizing-machines. It doesn't work that way unless of course it's History and you are trying to learn all the important dates!

Explain it to your parents that if you don't understand what you are reading then you will be humiliated when unable to come up with something for yourself. Even worse, you will always end up following someone else's orders. You won't even know whether what you said and thought is good or not.

So for those people who plan to major in English, you just have to understand that this subject requires you to experiment with your own opinions. You are free to make a point and throw out your thoughts freely. English may not teach you how your computer works, but it teaches you how you work as an individual. It's the only subject that allows you to talk in liberty. In order to do that though, you have to first know what great writers and poets have said (just so that you don't repeat them and jump with joy thinking you are a genius!).

You will naturally face language barriers, culture barriers and even difficulties with the way these writers express their feelings it comes with the package. In the end however, once you have appreciated their views and seen their writings, you can take your own stand and produce works of your own. Who knows, maybe in a few decades, future generations might end up studying your works in their literature courses.



