

'London's Hyde Park'

In the course of a single Sunday afternoon at London's Hyde Park Corner, I heard half a dozen speakers addressing audiences ranging from a few bemused listening just for fun, to a sizeable crowd who appeared at least vaguely sympathetic towards the speaker's point of view. The Hyde Park Corner orators have almost as much of a British life as the speaker in the House of Commons, with the difference that the ruling of the Hyde park afternoon speaker has never been taken all that seriously. The 'freedom of speech' law allows people from all races and cultures to express whatever they may feel, know, believe, or acknowledge. It allows the speakers to touch on topics ranging from history to religion. Each individual may hold different perspectives, making it a very hostile area at times, for those who may express unreasonable or offensive ideas and thoughts. However, it is often argued why those who speak with talent and skill are not taken seriously, and those who may speak in the houses of parliament and advise society about certain things are listened to and at times accepted by society to behave accordingly.

The question of authority, status, and rank remains, do we have to be parliamentary officials to be listened to? Or can we trust our own instincts to take action against things which may conflict with others? According to research, it is an innate trait to believe and listen to those who have authority, although we may agree with ordinary individuals, we are never too convinced to take action do something about it. However, we are ready to sit and acknowledge the problem; dealing with it may not even be something that crosses our mind. The moral is simple. The greater the use of the vocal chords is, the less likely the use of the other human faculties. Perhaps, discussing all the possible complications and problems of society is not the best way to eliminate them; however, it has to start with expression. It is difficult to gather an audience, and even more difficult to convince them if we cannot firstly, express what we think, and then, justify why it is important enough to be dealt with. It is said that when a senior British Officer was sent a petition by the imprisoned freedom-fighters in Port Blair asking for reading material, he promptly arranged to send them substantial quantities of communist literature on the sound assumption that 'they will spend the rest of their lives arguing about it'. Castrated, rendered harmless, in other words.

Q. Write and learn the spellings of the underlined words from the text.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

Q. Write the meanings of the following words in the spaces provided.

a. bemused _____

b. eliminate _____

c. substantial _____

d. render _____

e. orator _____

f. acknowledge _____

Q. Answer the following questions based on the text 'London's Hyde Park'.

a. What is the similarity between Hyde Park protesters and preachers?

c. Describe the two types of audience present at the Hyde Park Corner.

b. What is the difference between a speaker at the Hyde Park Corner and that in the House of the Commons?

c. What does the 'freedom of speech' law give freedom for?

d. Explain what the writer means when he says, 'Or can we trust our own instincts to take action against things which may conflict with others?'

e. What does the author mean by the use of vocal chords?
