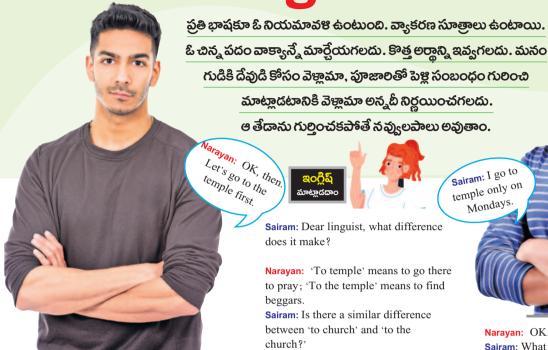
You're a grammarian!



Narayan: Out on an errand? Sairam: It's my free time now.

Narayan: Going to the cinema?

Sairam: Today is Sunday. It's beggars' day today - for me.

Narayan: When was it declared? I've not been aware of it.

Sairam: What I mean to say is I'm going to give alms to a few beggars today.

Narayan: My God! So ambiguous. Why don't you improve your communication

Sairam: Will you please help me find some good beggars?

Narayan: Are there bad beggars? What do you mean by good beggars? Sairam: I mean those who genuinely deserve alms.

Narayan: OK, then. Let's go to the temple

Sairam: I go to temple only on Mondays.

Narayan: Notice the article 'the' in my words. I said 'to the temple' and not 'to temple.'

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temple only on Mondays

Sairam: I go to

Sairam: Dear linguist, what difference does it make?

Narayan: 'To temple' means to go there to pray; 'To the temple' means to find beggars.

Sairam: Is there a similar difference between 'to church' and 'to the church?

Narayan: Yes. You go to church with the Bible in hand; you go to the church with a bucket of paint and a paint brush.

Sairam: You're a grammarian! ... We've reached the temple.

Narayan: You can see beggars on either side of the pathway leading up to the temple stairs.

Sairam: Look at the old lady, third from the right on your left. So pitiable! Let me help her first.

Narayan: I never knew that you had such a kind heart. See the man next to her with his crutches lying next to him on the floor. Sairam: I will give him money and food. Next ... next ... Let's go back for now. We'll come here again next week.

## **FEELING GUILTY!**

Ajay: I had promised to help you. I did not.... I feel giddy.

Ramu: Checked your BP?

Ajay: My BP is normal. Ramu: Go for brain scan.

Ajay: I am in good health. Only I feel giddy that I could not help you.

Ramu: You are not feeling giddy. You are feeling guilty!

Narayan: OK. Let's go back. ...

Sairam: What an unpleasant, intriguing

Narayan: Where?

sight! What do we see there?

Sairam: See that man leaning against the parapet wall of the park and smoking. Quite young and strong. Why is he begging? A bad beggar! Let's go and tell him to work and earn.

Narayan: Which man? Where do you see

Sairam: See the young man with unkempt hair, in dirty t-shirt and torn trousers. Let's go nearer.

Narayan: Stop! He's not a destitute, mind

Sairam: But look at his torn trousers. Torn at the knees. Looks so distressed.

Narayan: He's wearing ripped jeans. A sequel to distressed jeans. That's a fashion. Sairam: To me he looks like a pauper.

Narayan: He thinks himself a prince. If you try to give him alms, he'll burn your palms.



సూర్యారావు ఎం.వి వివేకానంద ఇన్స్టేట్యూట్ ఆఫ్ లాంగేఁజెస్. రామకృష్ణ మఠం.

