

Précis 37: CSS 1986

2: Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title:

One of the fundamental facts about words is that the most useful ones in our language have many meanings; That is partly why they are so useful; they work overtime... Think of all the various things we mean by the word "foot" on different occasions: one of the lower extremities of all human body, a measure of verse, the ground about a tree, twelve inches, the floor in front of the stair. The same is true of nearly every common noun or verb.

Considering the number of ways of taking a particular word, the task of speaking clearly and being understood would seem pretty hopeless if it were not for another very important fact about language. Though a word may have many senses, these senses can be controlled, up to a point, by the context in which the word is used. When we find the word in a particular verbal setting, we can usually decide quite definitely which of the many senses of the word is relevant. If a poet says his verse has three feet, it doesn't occur to you that he could mean it's a yard long or is three legged (unless perhaps you are a critic planning to puncture the poet with a pun about his "lumping verse"). The context rules out these maverick senses quite decisively.

Précis:

The useful words in language...

Different words in language
have same context.

The words regularly
use in our language contain
similar context. The "Word Foot"

we use as a different sense on
different occasion. Similarly most
of the verbs and noun are use.

A single word is speak with
different pronunciation. It is
understand by the way of talking

For instance, A poet says, his
poetry contain three legs. It
does not means legs. He is
talking about contents sound
and rhythm of words.

Precise word = 220

Total words = 71