

Better Spoken English
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Lecture No. # 20
Unit of Time, Weight, Distance

Good morning.

Good morning Sir,

This morning, we will be listening to a radio broadcast, and this broadcast talks about some business; and in business, in sciences, engineering, technology, you talk about a lot of numbers, units. They could be different kinds of units; they could be units of distance, price, money, weight, height, depth a whole lot of things. That means they are numbers. And average manager, or techno manager spends close to 40 percent of his time or her time talking, making business presentations, listening to the business presentations in all of these business and science presentations, you have numbers, letters of the English alphabet, units of weights and measures in a substantial manner. And quite often, you will be amazed that pretty frequently, we do not pronounce these items the way we should correctly.

When we say when we should say f i v e five, we often miss the last sound, we just 5, 25, 35. We often confused between 1, 9 and 9, 0 because they are pronounced differently, and we many of us, non native speakers of English are those of us, who have not been educated in a particular manner fail to keep this distinction. As a result when you say 90 or 19, your listener is not sure what you mean, do you mean 19 or do you mean 90, and there can be tremendous difference. Am I right? Would you like to get 19, when you deserve 90? Tell me yes or no.

Would you like to pay 90, when you want to pay only 19? Say yes or no.

No.

What would happen if the run way, if the aircraft landed on runway 90, when it should land on runway 19? What would happen tell me. If an aircraft is told to land on runway

19 and it lands on runway 90, what would happen? There will be disaster, there will be disaster by plane worth, aircraft worth millions of dollars could be lost, a life's worth billions of dollars will be lost, and that is what happens. Last year or year before last, this institute and some of us from this institute were involved in training air traffic controllers into better communication, and we found that these simple things, they were not able to keep the distinction between 1, 9 and 9, 0, 1, 3 and 3, 0. They were not able to keep the distinction between you know one letter of alphabet, and another letter of the alphabet.

When they said m, they were heard as saying n. When they say it l or you know h, the letter of alphabet which begins the word hotel was variously pronounced. Many south Indian traffic controllers pronounced it as h, many north Indian traffic controllers pronounced it as h. It is neither h nor h, what is it? It is h.

H.

So, unless and you know these days gone are the times when the only Tamil is speaking pilots flew, aircrafts to land and fly out of Chennai. Take the case of Chennai itself, it controls airspace, the traffic controller in the tower at Chennai airport controls all air traffic between Dubai and Singapore. Can you imagine what space, that is at any point of time he has or they have about twenty aircrafts juggling, it is like twenty balls in the air and you have to manage them all only with your voice, you have to separate them from each other vertically and horizontally. So, numbers, units and their pronunciation are terribly important for your business, the business of scientists, the business of engineers and the business of managers. And it does not require great effort to get them right, you know all it requires is a little attention, just little attention. It is like a button of the shirt, you might leave it unbuttoned but, with a little attention you can put the right button in the right? Complete the sentence?

Right hole

Right hole, it is just like that you know. So, what I am going to do today is to play you some radio broadcasts, not visual but audio. Try and listen your broadcast, and I am going to ask you some questions related mainly to the numbers. You can take notes if you like, but I would not pause. The entire broadcast would go in, one go. I want to see if you are good listener of numbers, a good listener of numbers, usually a good listener is a good speaker. Usually there are exceptions of course, but you know it is generally the

case that if you listen well, you also speak well, though the other way around is not necessarily true. Are you ready, yes or no?

Yes sir.

Everybody please, are you ready?

Yes sir.

Right, your notebook, your pencil; I am not taking asking you to take notes, I am telling to you can take notes. Is that okay?

Yes sir.

Clearly understood?

Yes sir.

And at the end of the listening, I will ask you some questions and I will ask you to write those answers, ready?

Right, can I ask you to some questions now, please?

You do not have to write the questions, you do not even have to write the answers. If you know the answer raise your hands, then I will ask you to answer me. What is the full name of the presenter of the report?

Bob Dowdy.

Bob Dowdy, take time you know names, numbers, etcetera, are easily forgotten, easily misunderstood. What is your name?

Arun.

Give me full name?

Arun Kumar Reddy.

Yes, you are Arun Kumar Reddy. Do not say I am Arun Kumar Reddy, take pauses. What is your roll number?

BT 10B054

No, it is not ten. It is BT 1, 0, come again.

BT 10B054

B054. What is your roll number?

BE10B036.

What is your name, full name?

Siddesh Godbole

What is your roll number?

CE10B079.

My friend, in the last bench what is your name, full name?

Rajeevkanth Reddy

What is your roll number?

7A09B034.

Yeah right, take your time to the listener. Next question, how many stores does Wal-Mart have in the US? Centre, please.

4000.

Yeah, it is not 4000. It is 4000, how many

4000.

How many how many. You see this is the only bit of information; rest of it is just the medium to carry this information. All other words are there, because they have take this number so, this number must get the maximum possible time. How many other countries have Wal-Mart stores?

Nine other countries

Yeah, nine other countries. When did Wal-Mart start its first store? Not you my friend, behind you.

1962,

Go slow, 1962, when?

1962, 1962, 1962, 1962.

Everybody together, when was the first Wal-Mart store started?

1962

In 1962, Which state of The United States of America

(()) Which state of The United States of, name the country, which country Wal-Mart did start in?

The United States of America.

United States of America, you know names must get time because they carry information, numbers must get time because they carry information. Which state of The United States of America?

(()) Are you sure? How many states are there in The United States of America?

50.

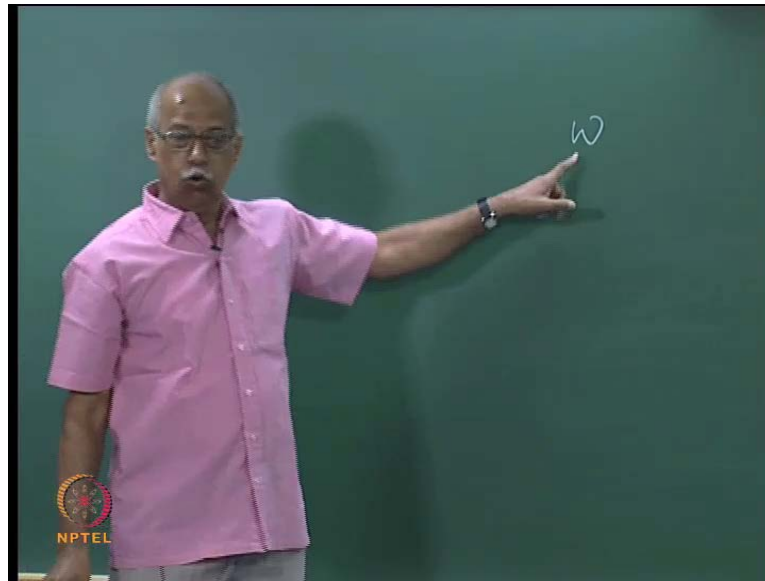
Sure?

Yes sir.

Will come back to it, let us ask you another question. What is the name of the person who has started Wal-Mart stores?

Sam Walton, Sam Walton, Sam Walton, Sam Walton, Sam Walton

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You know this, the sound indicated by this letter, you always round your lips, round your lips, puff your cheek puff your cheeks actually and then say wa. So, what is the name of the founder of the Wal-Mart stores?

Sam Walton.

When did he start it?

1962.

When did he die?

1992.

Right, what were the profits of Wal-Mart stores last year?

9000 Million Dollars.

How many employees does it have now?

One Billion workers

Sure?

Yes sir.

When did Sam Walton became the richest American?

1985.

What I will do is, I have. I am sorry you know I have never had enough handouts, you have got the share them, but listen to the question. You see, I have been unfair to you, I should have given you the questions before you began listening. Can you have one on each bench please? Can you have one on each bench please? And if you have more, then give back to me. Have one on each bench, I should have given you the questions before you, before I played the recorder because with question you hear you listen better, but I also want to draw your attention to the pronunciation of numbers and other units. So, give the extras back to me please, if you got one on each bench then return the extra copies to me. Right, have you got one on each bench, are you able to see? Are you able to see? You are four, you can have two. You have two? Are you able to ? Are you able to see? You have one more? You can keep it. Do you have, you can have another, but give me one at the moment. I must after that, yeah right, you can share it.

I am going to play it again and this time I will ask you to first listen, do not do these exercises before you listen, but look through the questions quickly. I will give you two minutes exactly, one minute for one page, and the other minute for the other page. Look through the questions carefully and then listen, and then fill in your answers. Am I clear to you? Am I clear to you? Say yes or no. First look through the questions so, that you know why you are listening, thezn listen and then I will give you time to fill in the blanks. Your time begins now, please take two minutes and look through the questions quickly. Anyone who wants a copy of this? Sheet for yourself. Are you ready now? Are you ready?

Yes sir.

Are you ready?

Yes sir.

Are you ready?

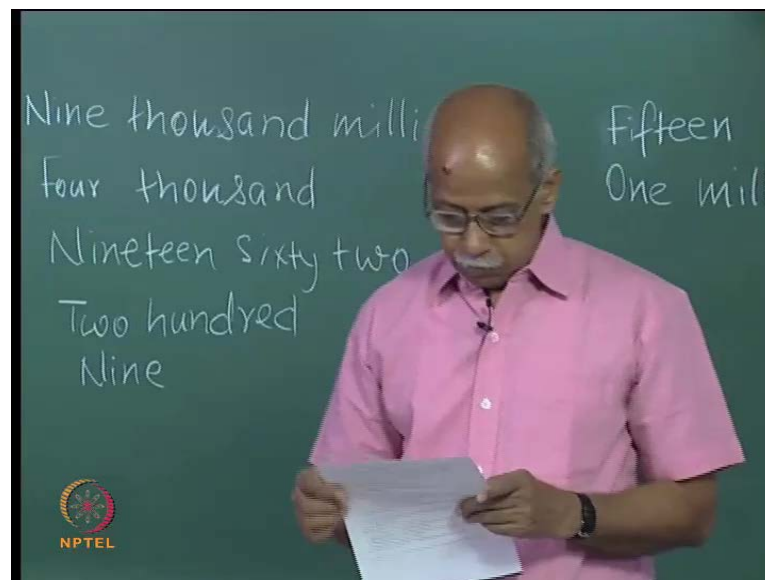
Yes Sir.

Sure, now listen and do not worry. Listen with your relax mind, but take the information. This time you have seen the questions, you know why you are listening, what you are looking for, look for those things, and then I will time to fill in your answers. Are we together?

Yes sir.

Lovely, take couple of minutes to fill in your answers or tick your answers, and do not worry about the going wrong. you know We are not worried about being factually correct.

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Let us compare our answers. What is the name of the radio broadcaster?

The Bob Dowdy

The Bob Dowdy. Number 2, Wal-Mart has more than?

2000 stores.

In the US and,

9 other countries.

Great, number 3. Sam Walton open3e the first Wal-Mart store in?

1962.

Which state?

Arkansas and Oklahoma

And how many?

Fifteen.

Fifteen, in the first goal. right The company Wal-Mart faced legal actions over some of its,

Employment activities

Employment activities, employment activities. In 2003, federal immigration agents raided

the Wal-Mart stores

And arrested more than,

200 night cleaning workers.

200, how many?

200

Yes, 200. It is not 200, what is it?

200.

Yes, the stress is on first syllable of hundred, 200 cleaning workers. Next, credits of discount stores say they run

Small business

They run small, round your lips

Small

Businesses. Multiple choices, I do not think I, I think you got it right, I am not going to go into it. Optionally, can you do one assignment for me for tomorrow? you know we would not meet tomorrow, we would meet on Friday, we will meet on, I am sorry pardon me. We would meet on Tuesday, 5 o'clock and please do come on time, we lose time you know. You cannot be considered respectable smart person unless you keep your commitments correctly. Do come on time, and can some of you please prepare a radio broadcast report in the same manner on some event on the campus? Say recently, we have sarang, can you do that? A two minute radio talk on sarang, numbers, how many students participated, what were the events, highlight of the events, when it was started, what were the earnings, what were the expenditure, how many people can do it? No one. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and it will be a television presenters report. You can have the note, but not PPT. You can bring your note and you can read it aloud, no problem.

Like news casters you can, but you coming good clean clothes and I will request my friends to record you. So, how many people are going to bring this report? Bring it typed, big letters, so that when you read it aloud, you have no confusion. Raise your hands once again, those of you who can do it 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8. Aparna, what is this? Raise your hand. these are the learn These are what we call learning opportunities, I expect each of you to do it. Remember, it will have to be only for two minutes and bring all the factual details, but no more than the two minutes. Right and come in good, clean, presentable clothes.

Right, we will do some practice now, numbers, etcetera, again you know. Did this broadcaster have other numbers, am I missing some numbers? How did he pronounce it, how did Bob Dowdy pronounce it?

9000 Million.

Yeah, the emphasis was here, the stress, 9000 million. What was it?

9000 Million.

What was this?

4000.

And

1962

1962, what was it?

1962.

Correct, once again?

1962

This?

200.

This?

9.

This?

15.

This?

1 million.

You know, numbers also once they have more than one syllable, there is a question of a stress. Which part of it is stressed? Can you pick up your book, and please open on page number 154, 154. Anyone of you who does not have the copy of the book here? Arun, why do not you have it? Come take this copy, take my copy and bring it back to me please. 154 bring it back to me. Page number 154. As I told you a while ago, we will do some practice together, correct.

As I told you a while ago, you know these things require a little attention, they are not difficult to relearn. We already know them of course, when somebody ask us, where you are studying or where you are working? And we say IIT, it is not IIT. What is it?

IIT.

Yeah, it is IIT. Very clear pronunciation and wherever you have a series of letters, the emphasis is on the last letter in abbreviations, but each letter must also be pronounced clearly. So, let us learn our a, b, c, d, look at the text and give me your ears. I will say it first, you will say it next, and then I will ask one of you to lead us later. A

A.

B.

B.

C.

C.

D.

D.

E.

E.

F.

F.

G.

G.

H.

H.

I.

I.

J.

J.

K.

K.

L

No, it is l,

L.

That is a shorts, come again?

L.

Yeah, go on.

M.

M.

N.

N.

O.

Once again it is o,

O.

Comes from here your pharynx, from your throat, o.

O.

Round your lips, swirl your cheeks and you know the voice come from your throat, it is
o,

O.

So, you know you just call say o god, you will have to say o god. What is it?

O God.

Round your lips, puff your cheeks, you know like you are unhappy with your mother. She has not given you the best of dosas or the money you wanted, right like my friend looks now unhappy. So, you know swell your cheeks, puff your cheeks, and then say, oh god.

O God.

So, let us continue, after o what letter?

P.

Next?

Q.

Next?

R.

Next?

S.

Next?

T.

Next?

U.

Next?

V.

Next?

W.

Next?

X.

Next?

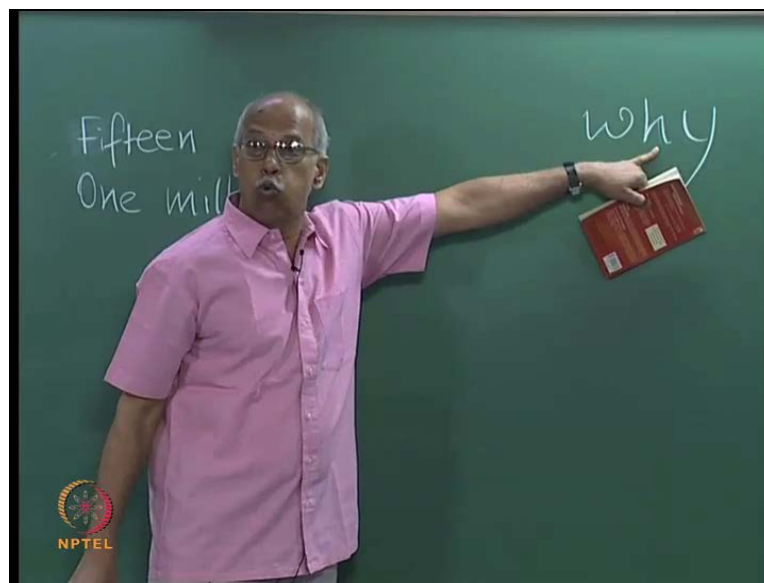
Y.

Yeah, it is y

Y.

It is a very long sound.

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What is this?

Why?

In India we pronounce it, why? There is no place for it, this is y. What is this?

Y.

You remember that recent song, that has become come popular?

Why this [FL]

Yes, but that is an Indian pronunciation, which is not bad for entertainment, but in international communication, in multi disciplinary communication, how do you pronounce it?

Y.

Y, next?

Z.

Z, or as Americans do it, as many Americans do it, not everyone zee

Zee.

Right, what I am going to do is now, ask you do it individually? There are abbreviations, I want see whether you can do them right. Please come to page number 156, I will begin in the last row and I will expect you to listen, everybody please. You can begin. Wait a minute, are we together?

Yes sir.

Everybody please?

Yes sir.

Take your time, there is no hurry you know. This week was just some practice, take your time, do it slowly, loud enough and carefully. Please?

A, a, a.

No, it is not a, a, a. It is a, a, a. Come again

A, a, a.

A, a, a, come again?

A, a, a.

A, go long. The start here a, right next?

A, b, c

Next?

A, b, c.

Next?

A, b.

Next?

A, g, m.

Next?

A, i, i, m, s.

Next?

A, i, r.

Next?

A, m.

Next?

B, a.

Next?

B, b, c

Next?

B, c.

Next?

B, (())

Next?

B, d.

Next?

B, l.

Next?

B, n.

Next?

B, s, c.

B.S.C Next?

B.Tech.

Next?

C.A

Next?

P.A.D

Next?

C.A.I

Next?

C.I.A

Next?

C.D.I

Next?

C.N.C

Next?

C.M.D

Next?

C.L

C.L

C.L

Next?

C.M

Next?

C.O

Next?

C.S

Next?

D.A

Next?

E.C

Next?

E.G

Next?

D.D

Next?

D.M

Next?

D.lit

Next?

D.N.A

Next?

D.phil

Next?

D.S.C

Next?

E.E.C

Next?

E.S.P

Next?

E.C.C

Next?

F.A.O

Next?

M.E.I

Next?

L.M

Next?

D.P

Next?

D.M

Next?

G.M.T

Next? Let us do it together, some letters. We will begin with, let us say I. I will say it first and you will follow me. Let us do let us do it with h, you know H.M

H.M

H.M.G

H.M.G

H.C.F

H.C.F

H.O

H.O

Now, go on your own, I will say one, two, three, together begin.

H.P, I.A.F, I.A.S, I.C.B.M, I.B.M, I.F.S, I.I.S.C, I.I.T,

Similarly, you have these things occur pretty frequently, very very more frequently then you and I may readily acknowledge. Letters of the alphabet individually either as abbreviations or calling somebody, you know by abbreviated name or as units of weights and measures. What is the mileage your car gives you, a lot of people will tell you thirty kilometers per gallon, or thirty km per gallon or per liter. You know these things occur pretty frequently. Lets come to the number, what is the time now? what is the time now tell me the time now?

953

953, what is the time now?

3. Lets come to the number, I will say it first and you will follow me.

1

1

2

2

3

3

4

4

5

5

let the last sound come here, you know many people in India particularly, in South India, do not produce for whatever reason, not that they cannot. You know possibly we are in a hurry

5

5

6

6

7

7

8

8

9

9

10

10

11

11

12

12

13

13

14

14

Go on together please,

15, 16, 17

Slowly, take time,

18, 19,

Lovely,

20,

Go on

21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30

Wait there, come to page number 165, page number 165. We have some numbers there, I am going to ask you do it individually, Jadav. Sorry, what is your name?

Karthik

Yeah, Karthik pardon me. I have such a bad memory for names. Did you get this?

Yes sir

Yeah please,

1, 9, 7

Or you can also say 197, next

1, 9, 9

Or,

One Double Nine

Or

199

Or 199,

414309

Next.

2350309

Next

443866

Next

466385

Next

0719308466

Or you can do them in groups, you can say 071, come again

930 8466

Together, let us take the next group, next.

0524 65201

Next

2433

Take the next group, together.

0724 845881

Next

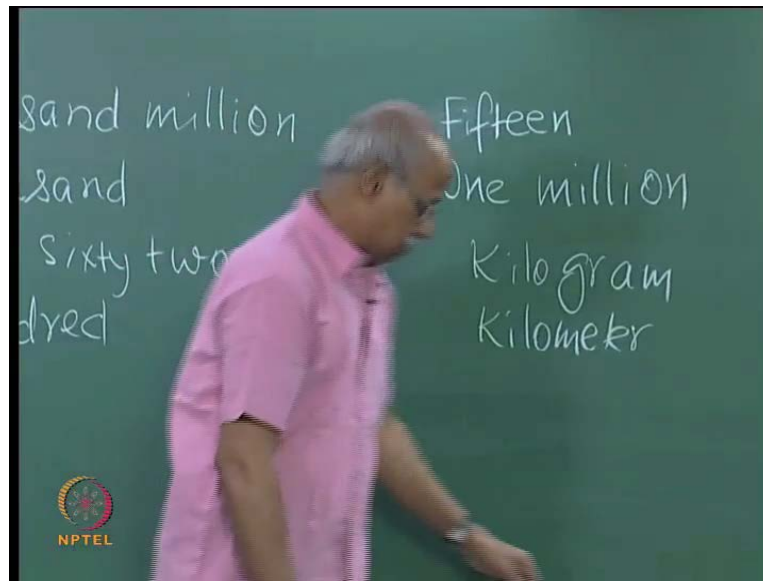
061 256 1746

Next

600 036

I guess you know, next time when you speak, in the next cycle of presentations I am going to pay attention. That is why you know I have asked you to bring tables, talk about numbers, etcetera. I am going to ask you to pay attention to some of these things; you know the pronunciation of numbers, units of weights and measurements, quickly before we leave. What is the unit of weight how do you measure?

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How do you pronounce it?

Kilogram

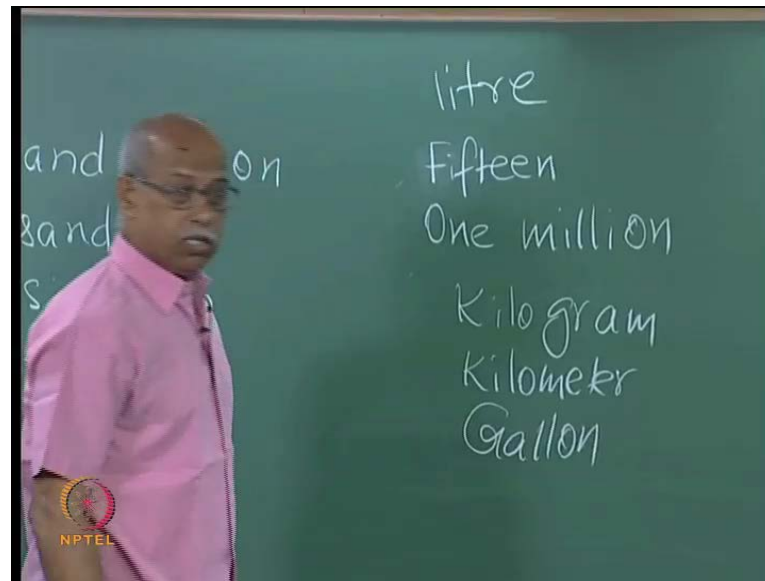
And distance?

Kilometer

Can you check with your dictionary, how do you measure the liquid?

Gallon

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Or?

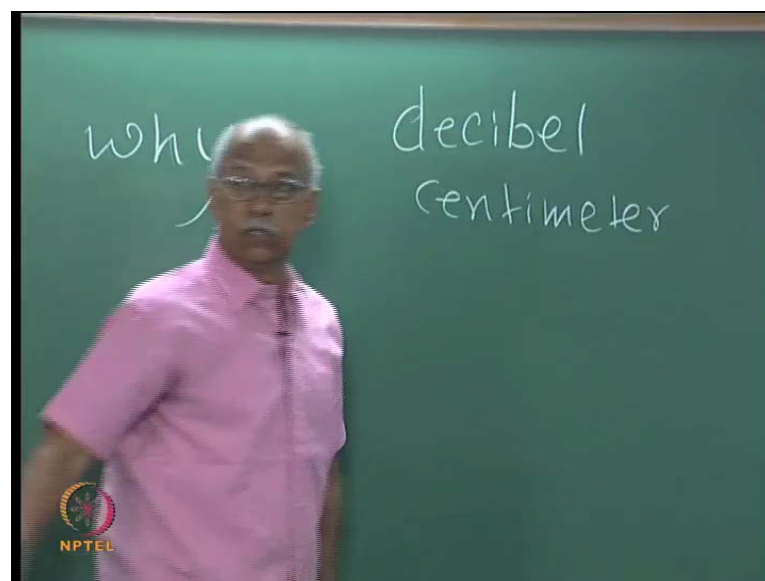
Liter

How do you measure noise?

Decibel

How do you pronounce this?

(Refer Slide Time: 48:11)



Centimeter

So, do one thing. Can you make a list of these units? Please write. You know, we may not compare our pronunciation of these things now today, but take a list. How do you measure thickness, how do you measure distance, weight, height, length, depth of the ocean, how do you measure the depth of the oceans?

Units.

And what is the unit? How do you measure speed of aircrafts?

How many kilometers or how many nautical miles, particularly ships. So, can you make a list of these units? Please write. Units of weight, measurement, distance, measuring liquids, and other kinds of measurements, measuring noise, measuring pollution, you know, measuring the purity of gold, what is the unit?

Carat

Carat. So, can you can you look up and bring at least ten words of this kind, in the class on Tuesday. Everybody please, how many people will do it? You will have to look up your dictionary, look for stresses and bring here, bring them here to today. Right, any questions? Thank you, have a good day.