**The Cobra Effect**

**1 British raj**, period of direct British rule over the Indian subcontinent from 1858 until the independence of [India](https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-India) and [Pakistan](https://www.britannica.com/topic/history-of-Pakistan) in 1947, which means that **they** ruled the country and they governed the Indian people.

**2** The British were able to take control of India mainly because India was not united. The British signed treaties and made military and trading alliances with many of the independent states that made up India. The British were very effective at infiltrating these states and gradually taking control. They often left the local princes in charge of the various parts of India. These local princes were effective at maintaining British rule and gained much from being loyal to the British. They used India to make wealth for the British Empire. But they also developed India. They built canals and railroads. They tried to make India more like the United Kingdom.

**3** Yet India was different from the UK. It was more rustic. The ecology was different too. Some British colonists had a hard time adapting. The snakes were particularly troubling. The capital area of Delhi was overrun with venomous cobras.

**4 Cobra**, any of various species of highly venomous [snake](https://www.britannica.com/animal/snake)s, most of which expand the neck ribs to form a hood. While the hood is characteristic of cobras, not all of them are closely related. Cobras are found from southern Africa through southern [Asia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Asia) to islands of [Southeast Asia](https://www.britannica.com/place/Southeast-Asia). Throughout their range, different species are favourites of snake charmers, who frighten them into assuming the up-reared defense posture.

**5** The short fangs at the front of the mouth have an enclosed groove, which delivers the [venom](https://www.britannica.com/science/venom). Cobra venom generally contains [neurotoxins](https://www.britannica.com/science/neurotoxin) active against the [nervous system](https://www.britannica.com/science/nervous-system) of prey—primarily small vertebrates and other snakes. Bites, particularly from larger species, can be fatal depending on the amount of venom injected. Neurotoxins affect breathing, and although [antivenin](https://www.britannica.com/science/antivenin) is effective, it must be administered soon after the bite. Thousands of deaths occur each year in South and Southeast Asia.

**6** Encountering a cobra is quite frightening. It's even worse getting bit by one. The cobras killed many colonists. Enough died that the British government decided to take an action and rectify the situation. They paid a bounty for every dead cobra which was called the “cobra effect”; a term that describes an attempted solution that actually makes a current problem worse.

**7** This incentive would achieve two objectives:

First, it would rid the streets of venomous cobras and who could possibly be against that? Second, the financial reward would overwhelmingly assist Delhi’s most impoverished citizens who came into contact with the cobras most frequently and this would be an additional source of income for them and it would undoubtedly improve the delicate relations between the British colonialists and their local Indian subjects.

**8** The program was a success at first. Many people hunted and killed the cobras for the rewards. The number of cobras dropped. The colonists felt safer. But then it became harder to catch cobras. So enterprising people started breeding them. After all, it is easier to catch a pet cobra than a wild one.

**9** News of this scheme got back to the British government. They learned that people were breeding cobras to earn rewards. This is not what the British wanted to happen. They felt foolish. They scrapped the program. Afterward, the cobra breeders released the snakes back to the streets since they were not valuable to them anymore. Sadly, it made the cobra problem worse than it was when it started.

**10** In business, we see the concept of the “cobra effect” all the time. Business leaders make well-intended decisions to fix a problem or drive a result. However, if it is not well thought out, it can actually make a situation worse.

**11** Another example [was Airbus](https://www.wired.com/2008/12/a380-is-so-quie/). It wanted to improve the flying experience by making the noise inside its airplanes quieter. Airbus was successful in making its planes quieter; however, passengers and pilots could easily eavesdrop on other conversations and hear the cries of babies, as well as hear the door to the bathroom closing, more loudly. Overall, it likely made the flying experience worse.

**Questions**:

**1. The pronoun ‘They’ in paragraph 1 refers to:**

A. The British

B. Pakistani

C. The British and Pakistani

**2. A word in paragraph 2 which means ‘ to intrude on’ is…**

A. treaties

B. alliances

C. infiltrating

**3. Unity of India was a major cause for the British invasion.**

A. True

 B. False

**4. Indian princes were assigned by the British Empire to…**

A. build canals and railroads.

B. rule over assigned places in India.

C. keep the British rule over India.

**5**. **Local princes only helped in affairs related to the British Empire.**

A. True

B. False

**6. What British colonists found most troubling in India is that it…**

A. was plain with infertile land.

B. was full of poisonous snakes.

C. had different surroundings than the UK’s.

**7.The most distinctive feature of cobras is that they are…**

A. extremely poisonous.

B. found in different continents.

C. can form a hood.

8**. Cobras feel threatened by snake charmers.**

A. True

B. False

**9. Neurotoxins can poison only small vertebrates and other snakes.**

A. True

B. False

**10.** [**Antivenin**](https://www.britannica.com/science/antivenin) **is only effective when**…

A. the bite is surely fatal.

B. the prey’s nervous system is still active.

C. shortly used after the bite.

**11. A word in paragraph 6 which means ‘to correct’:**

A. rectify

B. bounty

C. attempted

**12. Which best defines the term “cobra effect” as described in the text?**

A. A response to a problem that makes it better.

B. A response to a problem that completely solves it.

C. A response to a problem that makes it worse.

**13. At the end, paying a bounty for killing cobras was an effective solution.**

A. True

B. False

**14. An adverb in paragraph 7 which means ‘strongly’:**

A. overwhelmingly

B. undoubtedly

C. possibly

**15. Giving financial rewards helped temporarily build up relations between colonists and Indians.**

A. True

B. False

**16. Some Indians started breeding cobras again because…**

A. they liked to raise cobras as part of their culture.

B. people stopped getting rewards for killing cobras.

C. cobras were getting harder to get caught.

**17. Breeders released cobras back to the streets because…**

A. they wanted it be a message for the colonists.

B. there weren’t any rewards given anymore.

C. they were getting too violent.

**18. The reason why the British government stopped giving financial rewards is**…

A. they knew that Indians were trying to trick them.

B. they decided to give another type of rewards.

C. cobras’ numbers decreased as they hoped.

**19. With which statement would the author most likely AGREE?**

A. There is no such thing as a bad idea.

B. The fastest solution to a problem is always the best solution.

C. Think through solutions carefully before trying them.

**20. What lesson can readers learn from this text?**

A. Outcomes don't matter as long as you try your best.

B. Our actions can have unexpected consequences.

C. Things will always work out in the end.

**Grammar: Indirect Speech**

**1. “I won’t see you tomorrow”**

A. she said she might see me tomorrow.

B. she said she would not see me tomorrow.

C. she said she have to see him tomorrow.

**2. “Sally is living in Jordan for a few months”**

A. She said that Sally was living in Jordan for a few months.

B. She said that Sally has been living in Jordan for a few months.

C. She said that Sally had lived in Jordan for a few months.

**3. “I was sleeping when you called”**

A. He said that he has been sleeping when I called.

B. He said that he had been sleeping when I called.

C. He said that he slept when I called.

**4. “Julie could dance when she was 3”**

 A. He said Julie can dance when she was 3.

 B. He said Julie has danced when she was 3.

 C. He said Julie could dance when she was 3.

**5. "Is the book interesting or boring?"**

A. Ani told me if the book interesting or boring.

B. Ani asked me if the book was interesting or boring.

C. Ani told me if the book is interesting or boring.

**6. "When is your wedding?"**

 A. He asked me if it was my wedding.

 B. He asked me if it is my wedding.

 C. He asked me when my wedding was.

**7. “I like rock music."**

 A. She said that she liked rock music.

 B. She said that she likes rock music.

 C. She said that she is liking rock music.

**8. "I am doing my homework.”**

 a. Jack said that he is doing his homework.

 b. Jack said that he has been doing his homework.

 c. Jack said that he was doing his homework.

**9. "Did your team lose the match?"**

 A. She asked me if my team lose the match.

 B. She asked me if my team lost the match.

 C. She asked me if my teams have lost the match.

**10. "I will buy that dress for you."**

 A. My sister said she will buy that dress for me.

 B. My sister said she might buy that dress for me.

 C. My sister said she would buy that dress for me.

**Literature.**

**1. The first character to adjust to the American culture is…**

 A. Nurzhan

B. Maya

 C. The mother

**2. Maya was asked to go to the principal’s office because…**

A. she missed her gymnastics’ team practice.

B. she was in trouble

C. they wanted her to help in translation.

**3. In order for Maya to help her brother, she…**

A. talked to her parents and defended him.

B. gave the wrong translation to her dad.

C. asked her brother to stay away from trouble.

**4.Maya was blamed for not keeping Nurzhan out of trouble.**

A. True

B. False

**5. “My Favorite chaperone” refers to…**

A. Mike

B. Maya’s dad

C. Nurzhan