

Question: Give a précis of the following passage.

Speech is a great blessing, but it can also be a great curse, for while it helps us to make our intentions and desires known to our fellows, it can also, if we use it carelessly, make our attitude completely misunderstood. A slip of the tongue, the use of an unusual word or an ambiguous word, and so on, may create an enemy where we had hoped to win a friend. Again, different classes of people use different vocabularies, and the ordinary speech of an educated man may strike an uneducated listener as showing pride. Unwittingly we may use a word which bears a different meaning to our listener from what it does to men of our own class. Thus speech is not a gift to use lightly without thought, but one which demands careful handling. Only a fool will express himself alike to all kinds and conditions of men.

Answer:

Title: The Power and Effects of Speech

Speech is the key to making a successful relationship. It can be a blessing or a curse, depending upon how we express it. Any mistake in our speech may give a wrong signal to the listener. We should, therefore, use it very carefully.