TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES

A. Look at the following pairs of sentences:

(1) This news is **too good to** be true.
This news is **so good that it cannot** be true.

(2) He is **too honest to** accept a bribe.
He is **so honest that he will not** accept a bribe.

(3) He is **tall enough to** touch the ceiling.
He is **so tall that he can** touch the ceiling.

(4) If you work hard, you will succeed.
Work hard, and you will succeed.

(5) I will buy the house **if** it is cheap.
I will buy the house **provided** that it is cheap.

(6) She won't come **if you don't** invite her.
She won't come **unless** you invite her.

The meaning of both the sentences in each pair is the same. The sentence structure, however, is different. The rules of English syntax allow us to carry out such operations that are known as transformation or conversion. What we mean by transformation of sentences is changing the form of the sentence, without changing its meaning.

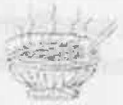
The grammatical form of a sentence can be altered in many ways. The important thing to be kept in mind in the exercise of this option is that the meaning of the sentence should not change. Let's examine some of the ways in which it is possible for us to change the structure but retain the meaning of sentences in English.

B. You have seen above that sentences with the adverbs **too** and **enough** can be rewritten in at least one more way. There are sentences that can be written in several ways. In each case there is a change in form but no change in meaning. Some more examples are given below for you.

(a) This soup is too hot for me to drink.

— This soup is very hot, so I cannot drink it.

— This soup is so hot that I cannot drink it.



(b) He is rich enough to buy a car.

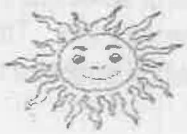
— He is rich, so he can buy a car.

— He is so rich that he can buy a car.



Exercise 1

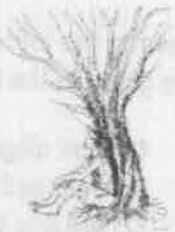
Can you transform the following sentences so as to remove the adverb 'too'?



1. She is too proud to apologize.
2. He is too honest to accept a bribe.
3. The sun is too hot for us to go out at present.
4. It is too hot to work.
5. This coffee is too hot to drink.



Now rewrite these sentences using 'too'



1. This tree is very high, so I can't climb it.
2. As it is very cold, we can't go out.
3. It is very dark, so we can't see anything.
4. This question is difficult, so I can't answer it.
5. Since I am very ill, I can't go to work.

Now, here are some sentences with the adverb 'enough'. Change the form of the sentences, removing 'enough':



1. This book is easy enough for me to read.
2. Reena is working hard enough to pass the examination.
3. He was kind enough to give us a lift in his car.

4. This novel is so short that it can be read in a few hours.
5. It was cold enough to freeze our fingers.

C. Different ways of expressing conditionality:

There are different ways to form **'conditional'** sentences in English. The sentence given below is a **conditional** sentence, because it expresses a 'condition':

1. If you work hard, you will succeed.

This can be rewritten or **transformed** in many ways. Look at the following changed versions:

2. Work hard and you will succeed.
3. Unless you work hard, you will not succeed.
4. Were you to work hard, you would succeed.
5. You will succeed provided you work hard.

Sentence 1 has undergone several **transformations.** Sentences 2-5 are transformed versions of sentence 1. The 'condition' that is expressed in sentence 1 remains the same in sentences 2-5. The meaning has not undergone a change. The change is in the grammatical structure of the sentence or the form of the sentence.

Exercise - 2

Rewrite the following sentences, without changing their meaning. Use the words that are given in the brackets:

1. Work diligently, and you will pass. (if)
2. Avoid bad company and you will be happy in life. (if)
3. I will buy the car if it is cheap. (provided that)
4. She will not come if you don't invite her. (unless)
5. If I had been wise, I would have accepted the offer. (had)

D. Transforming Degrees of Comparison

In English, it is possible to change the degree of comparison of an adjective without changing the meaning of the sentences. Such changes are also **transformations** since they change the form and not the meaning of the sentence.

1. Ram is as tall as Shyam. (Positive)

Shyam is not taller than Ram. (Comparative)

2. America is the richest country in the world. (Superlative)
   America is richer than any other country in the world. (Comparative)
   No other country in the world is as rich as America. (Positive)

Exercise - 3

Change the Degree of Comparison as suggested in the bracket in each of the following sentences, without changing the meaning:

1. Ashoka was one of the greatest of kings. (Positive)
2. Few flowers are as beautiful as the rose. (Comparative)
3. Iron is one of the most useful of all metals. (Positive)
4. Bombay is the biggest city in India. (Comparative)
5. Rahul is more intelligent than Rohit. (Positive)

E. Negative, Interrogative and Exclamatory Transformations

In English, the simple, affirmative and declarative sentences can be transformed into **negative**, **interrogative** and **exclamatory** sentences.

From **affirmative** to **negative**

1. Everyone present there cheered. (affirmative)
   There was no one present who did not cheer. (negative)

2. He tried every plan. (affirmative)
   He left no plan untried. (negative)

3. He is the richest man in the city. (affirmative)
   No man in the city is as rich as he. (negative)

4. The gate is sometimes closed. (affirmative)
   The gate is not open at all times. (negative)

5. Can I ever forget your kindness? (affirmative)
   I can never forget your kindness. (negative)

From **declarative** to **interrogative** (Changing Statements into Questions)

1. No one can bear such an insult. (declarative)
   Can anyone bear such an insult? (interrogative)

2. We waste time in reading comics. (declarative)
   Do we not waste time in reading comics? (interrogative)

3. Everyone loves his country. (declarative)
   Who does not love his country? (interrogative)

4. A tiger cannot change its nature. (declarative)
   Can a tiger change its nature? (interrogative)

5. This is not the way to talk to your mother. (declarative)
   Is this the way to talk to your mother? (interrogative)

From **affirmative** to **exclamatory**

1. She sings very sweetly. (affirmative)
   How sweetly she sings! (exclamatory)

2. This is a very beautiful scene. (affirmative)
   What a beautiful scene this is! (exclamatory)

3. A lamb is a very gentle creature. (affirmative)
   What a gentle creature a lamb is! (exclamatory)

4. I wish I had the wings of a dove. (affirmative)
   O! that I had wings of a dove! (exclamatory)

5. These flowers are lovely. (affirmative)
   How lovely these flowers are! (exclamatory)

Exercise - 4

Transform the following sentences in the ways suggested in brackets:

1. There is no smoke without fire. (negative to affirmative)
2. Ajai is the strongest boy in the class. (affirmative to negative)
3. There is nothing greater than love. (declarative to interrogative)
4. How intelligent the students of our school are! (exclamatory to affirmative)
5. What a lame excuse! (exclamatory to declarative)
6. You are very careless. (declarative to exclamatory)
7. Prevention is better than cure. (declarative to interrogative)
8. As soon as the thief saw the policeman he ran away. (affirmative to negative)
9. Can anyone be more faithful than a true friend? (interrogative to declarative)
10. Blood is thicker than water. (declarative to interrogative)

DIRECT AND INDIRECT SPEECHES

A. Look at the following sentences:

(a) Ranjan says to his friend," I have a headache. I am unable to attend my class."

(b) The clerk says to me, "You will have to pay the late fine."

When Ranjan's friend has to report to the class teacher, he says:

Ranjan says that he has a headache and is unable to attend his class.

Similarly, I report to my father:

The clerk tells me that I will have to pay the late fine.

In these examples first, we put what **Ranjan** and **the clerk** say within inverted commas. This is called **Direct Speech**. But when we report the same thing in our own words without changing the meaning, it is called **Indirect Speech.** The inverted commas are often replaced by an appropriate conjunction. The Verb in the Reporting clause is also changed suitably.

Rules of changing the Direct Speech to Indirect Speech

There are certain rules of changing Direct speech to Indirect Speech. They are as follows :

1.Inverted commas are omitted and a suitable conjunction is used between Reporting Clause and Reported Speech depending on the kind of sentence used as Reported Speech

Sentence as Reported speech	**conjunction to be used**
Assertive/Declarative/ Statement	that
Question/ Interrogative Yes/No Wh-question	 if/ whether wh-word
Imperative	to
Exclamatory	that

2. While changing Direct Speech into Indirect Speech, we change Reporting verb keeping in mind the kind of sentence used as the reported speech. Thus,

Reported Speech	Rep. verb in Dir. Speech	Rep. verb in Indir. Speech
Statement	say, tell	say, tell
Question	say, ask	ask, inquire, want to know
Command /request advise	say, ask	order, request, command, etc (any suitable verb)

3. If the reporter uses the present or future tense, the tense of what he says – i.e., reported speech – will not change.

Now consider the following sentences:

(a) The servant said, "There is no snake."

(b) The old man says, "I have seen a snake under the staircase."

When we have to report the same thing in the indirect form we say:

The servant said that there was no snake.

Here the reporting verb 'said' is in the Past tense. Therefore, the tense of the Reported Speech is changed into the Past tense.

The second sentence in the **Indirect Speech** will be:

The old man says that he has seen a snake under the staircase.

This is because the reporting verb - here 'says' - is in the Present Tense. Therefore, the tense of the reported speech has not changed.

Thus the rule is that if the reporting verb is in the Present or Future Tense, the tense of the Reported Speech is not changed. But if the reporting verb is in the Past Tense, the tense of the Reported Speech is changed as follows :

a. Present Indefinite or Simple Present - Past Indefinite or Simple Past

Examples:

Direct: Gayatri said, "I like music."

Indirect: Gayatri said that she liked music.

Direct : I said to her, "I go there every day."

Indirect : I told her that I went there everyday.

b. Past Indefinite or (Simple Past) – Past Perfect Tense

Direct: Babu said to his friend, "I saw Gol Ghar last Friday."

Indirect: Babu told his friend that he had seen GolGhar the previous Friday."

c. Present Continuous or Present Progressive - Past Continuous or Past Progressive

Examples:

Direct: They said, "Our college is going on an excursion."

Indirect: They said that their college was going on an excursion.

Direct: My friend said to me, "He is preparing his speech."

Indirect: My friend told me that he was preparing his speech.

d. Present Perfect and Past Perfect - Past Perfect Tense

Direct: The rickshaw puller said, "The government has done very little for us."

Indirect: The rickshaw puller said that the government had done very little for them.

Direct: The teacher said to the students, "By 1947 India had become independent."

Indirect: The teacher told the students that India had become independent by 1947.

e. Present Perfect Continuous and Past Perfect Continuous - Past Perfect Continuous Tense

Direct: The captain said, "Our players have been playing for weeks."

Indirect: The captain said that their players had been playing for weeks.

Direct: Zafar said, "I had enjoyed the party ."

Indirect: Zafar said that he had enjoyed the party.

f. Modals denoting future time are changed into corresponding Past Tense; i.e.

shall - should	will - would
may - might	can - could

Note: *However, if the reported statement/ situation is valid at the time of reporting, the tense of the Reported Speech is not changed. For example,*

*Bipin said to me," I **don't** smoke."*

If the statement means that he does not smoke ever now, there is no need to change the tense. Hence,

*Bipin told me that he **doesn't** smoke.*

But,

*Bipin said to me when I met him last Christmas, "I **don't** smoke."*

Here, it is not clear whether he smokes now or not. Therefore,

*Bipin told me last Christmas that he **didn't** smoke.*

Exercise - 1

Change the following sentences into Indirect Speech:

1. Mummy said to me, "I need some cough syrup."
2. The artist said, "We are already booked."
3. His father said to Amar, "You have broken my spectacles."
4. They said, "We are going to Rajgir on New Year's Day."
5. The singer said, "I liked the audience very much."
6. Chabbi said to the organiser, "I will come again."
7. The salesman said, "My stock has run short."
8. He further said, "I had already placed orders for more goods."
9. Mamta said, "I will be doing something for the poor."
10. I said to him, "They will have gone before you reach here."

4. Universal Truth

In the case of a universal truth or a habitual fact the, tense of the reported speech is not changed. For example,

1. The teacher said, "The earth **moves** round the sun."
   The teacher said that the earth **moves** round the sun.
2. The preacher said, "Honesty **is** the best policy."
   The preacher said that honesty **is** the best policy.
3. They said, "Nobody **can** be ever happy in life."
   They said that nobody **can** be ever happy in life.
4. The child said, "Two and two **makes** four."
   The child said two and two **makes** four.

5. Changing the person of the Pronoun:

The person of the pronoun in the Reported speech changes as follows :
1st Person in the Reported speech — According to the Subject of the Reporting clause.
2nd Person in the Reported speech — According to the Object of the Reporting clause.
3rd person in the Reported speech — No change
Thus,

1. The **gardener** said, "**I** have to work for ten years."
   The **gardener** said that **he** had to work for ten years.
2. Varsha said to **me**, "**You** have done the right thing."
   Varsha told **me** that **I** had done the right thing
3. **Amod** said, "**My** brother is a good cricketer."
   Amod said that **his** brother was a good cricketer.

6. Changing some other parts of speech like Adjectives, Adverbs etc. in the Reported Speech

Time adverbs showing nearness are changed into Time adverbs showing distance. Thus,

Direct speech	**Indirect Speech**
this	that
these	those
now	then /at the time
here	there
today	that day
tonight	that night
yesterday	the day before/ the previous day
tomorrow	the following day/ the next day
the day before yesterday	two days before
the day after tomorrow	in two days' time
the last week	the week before/ the previous week
so	thus

(a) My friend said to me,"I will meet my brother **tomorrow**."
My friend told me that he would meet his brother the following day.

(b) She said to me," I met him **last week**."
She told me that she had met him **the week before**.

Exercise-2

Change the following into Indirect speech

1. Grandma said, "I don't like summer."
2. My friend said to me, "You never feel tired."
3. The child said to his papa, "I must get free time to play."
4. The grocer said, "Prices will never come down."
5. They said, "We are opening a cyber café."

B. Questions

There are two types of questions:

Yes/no questions, i.e. questions beginning with an Auxiliary Verb like **is, am, are, do, does, have, has, etc**.

Wh-questions, i.e., questions beginning with an Interrogative word like **what, who, when, why, where, which, how** etc.

Read the following sentences:

1. I said to Moti, "When will the college reopen?"
2. Pragya said to me, "Why do you ask me?"
3. The newcomer said, "Which way is the college canteen?"
4. The guests said, "Where are the toilets?"

5. They said to me, "Are you the son of a minister?"
6. I said to a senior student, "How shall I prepare for the exam?"
7. People often ask, "Has politics become dirty now?"

Some of the above questions begin with **why**, **which**, **where**, and **how** and some with **has** and **are**. While changing them into indirect speech **said** or **told** is replaced by **asked, inquired (of)** or wanted to know (of). In case of a question beginning with an auxiliary verb such as **is, are, has, have, do, does** etc, we use **if** or **whether** as conjunction between Reporting Clause and Reported Speech. Again, the interrogative structure is made assertive and full stop is used in place of a question mark. Thus the above sentences can be changed into Indirect speech as follows:

1. I asked Moti when the college would reopen.
2. Pragya inquired of me why I asked her.
3. The newcomer asked which way the college canteen was.
4. The guests asked where the toilets are/were.
5. They asked me whether I am the son of a minister.
6. I asked a senior student how I should prepare for the exam.
7. People often ask whether politics has become dirty now.

In examples 4 and 5 tense need not be changed as the questions refer to the time which is present. The same is the case with **now** in example 7.

C. Requests, commands, proposals, offers, advice etc.

While reporting requests, commands, proposals, offers and advice etc; 'said' of the direct speech is replaced by words expressing similar meaning. The imperative mood is also changed into the infinite.

Examples,

1. The policeman said to me, "Show me your license."
   The policeman asked me to show him my license.
2. The magistrate said to the protesters, "Go away from here."
   The magistrate ordered the protesters to go away from there.
3. My friends said, "Let us go to the Grand Hotel.
   My friends suggested that we (should) go to the Grand Hotel.
4. The doctor said to me, "Take exercise regularly."
   The doctor advised me to take exercise regularly.
5. I said to my friends, "Let's go to Kumharar for a picnic."
   I proposed to my friends that we should go Kumharar for a picnic.
6. The old man said to me, "Please hold my bag."
   The old man requested me to hold his bag.

Exercise - 3

Change the following sentences into Indirect speech:

1. Sumitra said to me, "Take a morning walk to stay fit."
2. Sheela said to Rani, "Let's go to Naina Beauty Parlour.'
3. You said to Karim, "Eating gutkha is bad for health.'
4. The judge said, "Call the next witness."
5. Mother said to me, "Don't forget to buy vegetables.'
6. The salesman said to me, "I can give you 50% discount."
7. The minister said to the public, "I'll fulfil all your demands."

C. Exclamations and Wishes

While reporting exclamations and wishes, 'said/ told' is replaced by some verb expressing exclamation or wish like exclaim, cry out, shout, wish, bless, curse, pray, etc.

Examples,

1. Grandpa said to me, "May you live long!"
   Grandpa wished me a long life. / wished that I might live long.
2. The broker said, "Alas! I am undone!"
   The broker exclaimed with sorrow that he was undone.
3. They all said to me, "Happy birthday to you!"
   They all wished me a happy birthday.
4. The priest said to Maya, "May God give you a son!"
   The priest blessed Maya that God might give her a son!"
5. The angry man said to Pappu, "Go to hell!"
   The angry man cursed Pappu that he might go to hell.

Exercise - 4

Change the following sentences into Indirect speech:

1. The teacher said to me, "God bless you!"
2. The child said me, "What a beautiful flower!
3. I said to my friend, "Good bye!"
4. My mother said to me, "Bravo! You've got first!"
5. Natalia said, "What a pity! He lost his eyesight!"

MODALS

A. Read the following sentences:

(a) *He **will** help us.*

*(b) We **ought to** obey our parents.*

*(c) I **must** work hard. .*

The words in bold letters - **will, ought to, must** - are called **Modals** in English. They show **mood** or **attitude**. There are altogether 13 Modals .They are: **shall, will, should, would, can, could, may, might, must, ought to, used to, dare** and **need.** The different forms of modals can be shown through the following table:

Non-Negative	Uncontracted Negative	Contracted Negative
shall	shall not	shan't
should	should not	shouldn't
can	cannot	can't
could	could not	couldn't
will	will not, 'll not	won't
would	would not, 'd not	wouldn't
may	may not	mayn't
might	might not	mightn't
must	must not	mustn't
ought to	ought not to	oughn't to
used to	used not to	usedn't to
need	need not	needn't
dare	dare not	daren't

Uses of Modals

B. Shall and Will

'Shall' and 'will' and have similar uses; they are used to convey the meanings of willingness, intention and insistence, but there are subtle diffrences between them. "Will" is often used with the second or third person as a neutral way of expressing future. Look at the follwing senteces:

(a) *She **will** complete her task soon.*
*(b) You **will** be free for most of the summer.*
*(c) Sita **will** return soon.*
*(d) They **will** come today.*

"Will" is often used to make prediction. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) She **will** come if you invite her.*
*(b) Rising early **will** make you a healthy person.*
(c) *Drinking milk **will** make you strong.*
*(d) Oil **will** float on water.*

"Shall" and "will" are, generally, used to express intention on the part of the speaker. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) I **shall** write to you.*
*(b) We **shall** overcome.*
(c) *I **shall** buy a car.*
*(d) We **shall** appear at the examination.*
*(e) I **will** help you.*
*(f) I **will** lend you my books.*

"Shall" can be used, with the first person, to express willingness on the part of the speaker. Look at the following sentences:

a. *We **shall** love to help you*
*b. I **shall** be happy to help you.*

"Shall" can be used, with the second or third persons, to express insistence or legal and quasi-legal injunction. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) Do as you **shall** be fined.*
*(b) You **shall** be punished if you cheat me.*

*(c) She **shall** be terminated if she does not perform well.*
*(d) He **shall** be punished if he does not complete his home work.*
*(e) She **shall** have to do it at any cost.*

"Shall" is also used with the second or third person to express an order, command or threat on the part of the speaker. Look at the sentences:

(a) *You **shall** do it exactly as you wish.*
*(b) She **shall** do it.*
*(c) I **shall** do it by hook or by crook.*

"Shall" is also used with the second and third person to convey the sense of promise. Look at the follwing sentences:

(a) *You **shall** get your salary this month.*
*(b) She **shall** be given an award for her bravery.*

"Shall" is used to make offers and suggestions or questions with the first person. Look at the following sentences:

(a) ***Shall** I write for you?*
(b) **Shall** we begin the discussion?

C. Should

"Should' is used to express the future in the past or as the past equivalent of 'shall'. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *I said that I **should** go home.*
*(b) He asked me if I **should** do that.*
*(c) She told him that I **should** go to Delhi the following day.*

"Should" is used to express advice and suggestion. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *You **should** consult a doctor at once.*
*(b) You **should** work hard to pass the examination.*
*(c) We **should** go for a morning walk daily.*
*(d) We **should** be honest in our dealings*

"Should" is used to convey the sense of request. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *We **should** like to say that she has not committed the crime.*
*(b) I **should** like to say that she is innocent.*

"Should" is used to express duty or moral responsibility, especially when one does it on one's own without any external pressure. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *We **should** respect our elders.*
*(b) We **should** not tell a lie.*
*(c) We **should** always speak the truth.*
*(d) We **should** love our country.*
*(e) We **should** help the poor.*

"Should" is used to express a surprise. Look at the sentence:

*(a) It is really very surprising that India **should** lose the match in the first round.*

"Should" is used to convey the sense of possibility. Look at these sentences:

(a) *She **should** be sleeping there.*
*(b) He **should** be studying.*
*(c) We **should** win the match.*
*(d) It **should** rain today.*

"Should" is used to express supposition. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *Should they be honest, they will be respected everywhere.*
(b) Should she work hard, she will pass the examination.

"Should" is used with 'lest' to express a purpose. Look at these sentences:

(a) *We run fast **lest** we **should** miss the train.*
*(b) I work hard **lest** I **should** fail.*

"Should" is also used to make a sentence conditional. Look at the sentences:

(a) *Should she speak the truth, I shall pardon her.*
(b) Should I prepare well, I shall pass the examination.
(c) Should it rain, we shall not go out.
(d) Should he reach the station in time, she will catch the train.

D. Would

'Would' is used to express the future in the past or it is the past equivalent of 'will'. Look at the sentences:

(a) *He said that he **would** do the work.*
*(b) He said that he **would** not take tea.*

'Would' is used to express determination. Look at these sentences:

(a) *I **would** never surrender before you.*
*(b) I **would** stand by you in any circumstances.*
*(c) She **would** do it whether you like it or not.*

'Would' is used to express a habit in the past. Look at the sentences;

(a) *She **would** go out for a walk daily.*
*(b) After lunch, he **would** always take a short nap.*
*(c) She **would** sit all day with books in her hand.*
*(d) Gandhiji **would** spin every morning.*

'Would' is used to express suggestion. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *Would you take care of your study?*
(b) Would you take care of your health?

'Would' is used to express a polite request or polite question, especially in spoken English. Look at the sentences:

(a) *Would you please listen to me?*
(b) Would you please lend me your bike?
(c) Would you return my bike by tomorrow?

'Would' is used to express willingness, choice and preference, especially in spoken English. Look at the followin sgntences:

(a) *She said that she **would** help me.*

*(b) I **would** like to see her.*
*(c) We **would** rather go than stay.*
*(d) I **would** prefer death to dishonour.*

'Would' is used to express a wish or desire. Look at the sentences:

(a) ***Would** that I were a child again!*
*(b) **Would** that I were rich!*
(c) ***Would** that I were a bird!*
*(d) I wish you **would** go away!*
*(e) I wish I **would** see her again!*

'Would' is used to express a probability. Look at the sentences:

(a) *He **would** be a doctor.*
*(b) She **would** be her mother.*

'Would' is used to express unreal condition. Look at the sentences:

(a) *If I were a bird, I **would** fly to you.*
*(b) If I were rich, I **would** buy a car.*
*(c) If you had worked hard, you **would** have passed the examination.*
*(d) If you had come here, I **would** have gone there.*

E. Can

'Can' is used to express ability, be it physical, mental, monetary or of any sort. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *I **can** run for a long time.*
*(b) I **can** solve this problem.*
*(c) She **can** swim across the river.*
*(d) She **can** speak English.*

'Can' is used to express possiblity. Look at the following sentence:

(a) *He **can** lose his job.*

'Can' is used to express permission. 'Can' is less formal than 'may' in this sense. Look at the following sentence:

(a) *You **can** go now.*
*(b) You **can** take books from the college library.*
*(c) She **can** sit down now.*

'Can' is used to express 'habit' or 'nature'.Look at the following sentence:.

(a) *Anyone **can** do this.*
*(b) Anyone **can** make mistakes.*
*(c) Students **can** be spoiled.*
*(d) Electricity **can** be dangerous..*

'Can' is used to express disposition. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *He **can** tell a lie at any moment.*
(b) You can't believe him because he can cheat anyone.
*(c) Students **can** be spoiled.*
*(d) Electricity **can** be dangerous.*

F. Could

'Could' is used to express a variety of actions and conditions, especially in spoken English.

'Could' is used to express ability in the past. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *She asked me if I **could** help her.*
*(b) I asked him if he **could** play cricket.*
*(c) I **could** solve the problem.*
*(d) I **could** pass the examination.*
*(e) She **could** climb the tree.*
*(f) You **could** not solve the problem in one hour.*
*(g) He **could** not drive a car in his minor age.*

NB: 'Could' is used to show merely ability in the past; it does not show the completion of an action.

(a) She **could** pass the examination.

(She had the ability to pass the examination, but whether she passed or not is not clear at all.)

'Could' is used to show probability in the past or unreal condition. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *If she had money, she **could** buy a new car.*
*(b) You **could** have got the train if you had run fast.*
*(c) If I had taken medicine in time, I **could** have recovered earlier.*

'Could' is used to express polite request or permission. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) **Could** you lend me your book for a day?*
*(b) **Could** I go from here now?*
*(c) **Could** you please lend me some mony?*
*(d) **Could** she spare some time for her study?*

'Could' is also used to show the feeling of impatience. Look at the following sentences:

(a) What **could** you do now?
(b) How **could** this accident take place?

G. May

If you do any work on your own, you use **will, should** and **can**, but **shall, must** and **may** are used when external pressure is given: one is volition another compulsion.Look at the following sentences:

*S_1: **May** I come in, Sir?*
*S_2: Yes, You **may**.*
*S_1: **May** I use you pen?*
*S_2: Yes, You **may**.*

'May' is used to convey the sense of permission, especially in formal spoken English. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) You **may** do your work.*
*(b) You **may** have my help.*
*(c) You **may** start your work.*
*(d) She **may** appear at the examination.*

Here **'may'** is used to mean 'be allowed to'. **'May'** is more formal than **'can'** in giving permission

'May' is used to convey the sense of possibility which is uncertain. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *It **may** rain today.*
*(b) She **may** win the race.*
*(c) He **may** get a prize.*
*(d) The traffic **may** be congested.*
*(e) She **may** be at home.*

'May' is used to convey the sense of wish and prayer. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) **May** you live long!*
*(b) **May** God bless you with happiness!*
*(c) **May** God rest our soul in peace!*
*(d) **May** our parents live long!*

'May' is used to convey the sense of uncertainty and surprise. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) Who **may** call me a fool?*
*(b) Who **may** be my enemy?*

'May' is also used to convey the sense of purpose. Look at the following sentences:

(a) *He works hard so that he **may** pass.*
*(b) I do not miss my classes so that I **may** perform well in the examination.*
*(c) He walks in the morning so that he **may** be healthy.*
*(d) We eat so that we **may** live.*

G. Might

'Might' is used to express a variety of actions, states and conditions. It is used as the **past form of 'may' in the indirect speech**. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) Naghaz said that she **might** go for study.*
*(b) The teacher said that she **might** do this.*
*(c) Ratan said that he **might** change his bad habits.*

'Might' is used to convey the sense of probability. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) It **might** rain today.*
*(b) The patient **might** recover soon.*
*(c) He **might** come here any time.*
*(d) The teacher said that I **might** win a scholarship.*

'Might' is used to convey the sense of doubtful possibility, especially in spoken English. Look at the sentences:

a *She has not prepared well for the examination, but she **might** pass the examination.*
b *He is working hard, he **might** compete the competition.*

NB. (i) for permission or request, can, could, may and might are used.
(ii) 'Could' and 'might' express the sense of more politeness than that of 'can' and 'may'.
(iii)'May' expresses the sense of more politeness than that of 'can'.

'Might' is used to convey Good wishes in the past. Look at the sentences:

*(a) Father wished that I **might** live long.*
*(b) The teacher wished that we **might** get success in the examination.*
*(c) We wished that India **might** win the match.*

"Might" is also used to convey future condition. Look at these sentences:

(a) *If she gets an opportunity, she **might** go to England for higher education.*
*(b) If India play well, they **might** win the match.*
*(c) If he works hard, he **might** get first position in the class.*

H. Must

'Must' is used to convey a variety of actions, states and conditions.'It is used to convey the sense of **strong determination.** Look at the sentences:

*(a) We **must** respect our teachers.*
*(b) I **must** inform the principal.*
*(c) I **must** try my luck.*
*(d) We **must** finish our work today.*

'Must' is used to convey the sense of compulsion. Look at the sentences:

*(a) We **must** follow the rules of the road.*
(b) You must take rest now.
*(c) You **must** answer all the questions.*
(d) You must not hurt others' feelings.

"Must" is used to convey the sense of "necessity". Look at the following sentences:

*(a) You **must** work hard to get good position in the class.*
*(b) You **must** run fast to catch the bus.*
*(c) You **must** help your neighbour in the hour of need.*

'Must' is used to convey obligation. Look at the following sentences.

*(a) Doctors **must** take care of their patients.*
*(b) Teachers **must** take care of their students.*
*(c) Students **must** obey their teachers.*
*(d) Parents **must** look after their children.*

'Must is used to convey the sense of certainty or belief. Look at the sentences.

*(a) She **must** have broken the glass.*
*(b) You **must** have been absent from the class.*
*(c) He **must** be intelligent.*

'Must' is used to convey the sense of possibility/ conclusion. Look at the sentences:

*(a) My father **must** be sleeping.*
*(b) He **must** be a rogue.*
*(c) You **must** have received my letter by now.*
*(d) She **must** have finished her work by this time.*

'Must' is used to convey prohibition. Look at the sentences:

*(a) You **must** not take my book.*
*(b) You **must** not touch me.*
*(c) You **must** not disturb me at the time of study.*

'Must is used to express expectation. Look at the sentences.

(a) There must be a thief in the crowd.
(b) There must be a mistake somewhere.

'Must' is used to express necessity or obligation in future. Look at the sentences.

(a) You **must** prepare your lesson by tomorrow.
(b) We **must** save something for the future.

I. Ought to

Two facts about 'ought':

(a) **In present time, we use present infinitive after 'ought'.**

Ought + Present infinitive

Or

Ought + (to + V_1)

(b) **In past time, we use Perfect Infinitive after ought.**

Ought + Perfect Infinitive

Or

Ought + (to + have + V_3)

"Ought to" is used to express moral obligation or duty. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) We **ought to** respect our parents.*
*(b) We **ought to** obey our teachers.*
*(c) We **ought to** help the poor.*
*(d) People **ought not to** take bribes.*
*(e) She **ought to** serve her country.*

"Ought to" is also used to express moral obligation or duty in past. Look at the sentences.

*(a) You **ought to** have completed your work.*
*(b) You **ought to** have prepared well for the better performance.*
*(c) You **ought to** have worked hard.*

"Ought to" is used to express possibility. Look at the following sentences.

*(a) Naghaz **ought to** win the race.*
*(b) She **ought to** be here by now.*
*(c) You **ought to** win.*

"Ought to" is used to convey the sense of advice. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) You **ought to** walk fast as you are getting late.*
*(b) You **ought to** read a good book.*
*(c) You **ought to** consult a good physician.*

J. Used to

"Used to" is used to express a past habit. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) Gandhiji **used to** walk in the morning.*
*(b) I **used to** avoid meeting lazy persons.*

K. Need/Dare

"Need" and "Dare"are Modals if they are used with 'not' or 'n't' in Assertive Sentences. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) I **need not** go there.*
*I **needn't** go there.*
*(b) She **dare not** challenge you.*
*She **daren't** challenge you.*

"Need" and "Dare"are used as Modals in Interrogative Sentences. Look at the following sentences:

*(a) **Need** I talk to him?*
*(b) **Dare** you challenge her?*

Exercise-1

Given below is the list of modals with their different meanings. Construct sentences with each of the modals to bring out their different meanings:

Modals	Meaning	Sentence
Will		
Would		
Shall		
Should		
Can		
Could		
May		
Might		
Must		
Ought		
Need		
Dare		

Exercise-2

Fill in the blanks with suitable modals:

1. ... you go to Delhi today? (shall, will)
2. I ..... do it at any cost. (shall, will)
3. The train ..... be late today (may, can)
4. We ..... eat to live (should, must)
5. One ..... look after one's old parents. (should, ought to)
6. Gandhiji ..... walk in the morning. (should, used to)
7. They ..... surely come to save us. (shall, will)
8. Work hard, lest you ..... fail. (will, should)
9. It seems that it ..... rain heavily. (can, may)
10. The house ..... be built within a month. (shall, will)
11. We ..... be compelled to raise arms against you. (shall, will)
12. I ..... highly obliged to you.
13. You ..... read this book without any difficulty. (may, can)
14. No one ..... swim across the sea. (may, can)
15. If he works hard, he ..... surely succeed. (shall, will)
16. You ..... be given a present if you pass. (shall, will)
17. He ..... to get up after sunrise. (could, used to)
18. If I were a bird, I ..... fly. (will, would)
19. He said that he ..... not go there. (will, would)
20. The ..... touch a snake. (daren't, won't)