## THE VERB Transitive and Intransitive Verbs

179; A Verb is a word that tells or asserts something about a person or thing. Verb comes from the Latin verbum, a word. It is so called because it is the most important word in a sentence. A Verb may tell us-

1. What a person or thing does; as, Hari laughs.

The clock strikes.

1. What is done to a person or thing ; as,

Hari is scolded.

The window is broken.

1. What a person or thing is; as,

The cat is dead.

Glass is brittle.

I feel sorry.

Def:- A Verb is a word used to tell or assert something about some person or thing.

1. A Verb often consists of more than one word; as, The girls were singing. I have learnt my lesson.

The watch has been found.

1. Read these sentences:- 1. The boy kicks the football.

2. The boy laughs loudly.

In sentence 1, the action denoted by the verb kicks passes over from the doer or subject boy to some Object football. The verb kicks is, therefore, called a Transitive Verb. (Transitive means passing over.)

In sentence 2, the action denoted by the verb laughs stops with the doer or Subject boy and does not pass over to an Object, The verb laughs is, therefore, called an Intransitive Verb. (Intransitive means not passing over.)

Def.- A Transitive Verb is a Verb that denotes an action which passes over from the doer or Subject to an object.

Def.- An Intransitive Verb is a Verb that denotes an action which does not pass over to an object, or which expresses a state or being ; as,

He ran a long distance. (Action)

The baby sleeps. (State)

There is a flaw in this diamond. (Being)

Note.- Intransitive Verbs expressing being take the same cases after them as before them.

1. Most Transitive Verbs take a single object. But such Transitive Verbs as give, ask, offer, promise, tell, etc., take two objects after them - an Indirect Object which denotes the person to whom some thing is given or for whom something is done, and a Direct Object which is usually the name of some thing, as,

His father gave him (Indirect) a watch (Direct).

He told me (Indirect) a secret (Direct).

1. Most verbs can be used both as Transitive and as Intransitive verbs. It is, therefore, better to say that a verb is used Transitively or Intransitively rather than that it is Transitive or Intransitive.

### Used Transitively

1. The ants fought the wasps.
2. The shot sank the ship.
3. Ring the bell, Rama.
4. The driver stopped the train.
5. He spoke the truth.
6. The horse kicked the man.
7. I feel a severe pain in my head.

### Used Intransitively

1. Some ants fight very fiercely.
2. The ship sank rapidly.
3. The bell rang loudly.
4. The train stopped suddenly 5. He spoke haughtily.
5. This horse never kicks.
6. How do you feel?

Note.-Some Verbs, e.g., come, go, fall, die, sleep, lie, denote actions which cannot be done to anything ; they can, therefore, never be used Transitively.

1. In such a sentence as The man killed himself ' where the Subject and the Object both refer to the same person, the verb is said to be used reflexively.

Sometimes, though the verb is used reflexively. the Object is not expressed. In the following examples the reflexive pronoun understood is put in brackets:- • The bubble burst [itself].

* + The guests made [themselves] merry,
  + Please keep [yourselves] quiet.
  + With these words he turned [himself] to the door.

The Japanese feed [themselves] chiefly on rice.

These verbs may, however, be regarded as pure Intransitives without any reflexive force whatever.

1. Certain verbs can be used reflexively and also as ordinary transitive verbs; as,
   * Do not forget his name.
   * I forget his name.
   * Acquit yourself as man.

The magistrate acquitted him of the charge against him.

* + I enjoy myself sitting alone.
  + He enjoys good health.
  + He interested himself in his friend's welfare.
  + His talk does not interest me.

## Intransitive Verbs Used as Transitives

186. When an Intransitive Verb is used in a causative sense it becomes Transitive.

### Intransitive

1. The horse walks.
2. The girl ran down the street.
3. Birds fly. **Transitive**
4. He walks the horse.
5. The girl ran a needle into her finger (ran a needle = caused a needle to run)
6. The boys fly their kites (i.e., cause their kites to fly)

187. A few verbs in common use are distinguished as Transitive or Intransitive by their spelling, the Transitive being causative forms of the corresponding Intransitive verbs.

### Intransitive

1. Many trees fall in the monsoon.
2. Lie still.
3. Rise early with the lark.
4. Sit there.

### Transitive

1. Woodmen fell trees. (Fell = cause to fall)
2. Lay the basket there. (Lay = cause to lie)
3. Raise your hands. (Raise = cause to rise)
4. Set the lamp on the table. (Set = cause to sit)

188. Some Intransitive Verbs may become Transitive by having a Preposition added to them ; as,

All his friends laughted at (= derided) him.

He will soon run through (= consume) his fortune.

Please look into (= investigate) the matter carefully.

We talked about (= discussed) the affair several times. .

I wish for (= desire) nothing more.

The Police Inspector asked for (= demanded) his name.

Sometimes the Preposition is prefixed to the Verb; as, Shivaji overcame the enemy.

He bravely withstood the attack.

The river overflows its banks.

1. Intransitive Verbs sometimes take after them an Object akin or similar in meaning to the Verb. Such an Object is called the Cognate Object or Cognate Accusative. (Latin Cognatus, akin.)

* + I have fought a good fight.
  + He laughed a hearty laugh.
  + I dreamt a strange dream.
  + He sleeps the sleep of the just.
  + Let me die the death of the righteous.
  + She sighed a deep sigh.
  + She sang a sweet song. He ran a race.
  + Aurangzeb lived the life of an ascetic.

The noun used as a Cognate Object is in the Accusative Case.

The following are examples of partially Cognate Objects:- He ran a great risk (= he ran a course of great risk).

The children shouted applause (= the children shouted a shout of applause).

1. A noun used adverbially to modify a verb, an adjective, or an adverb denoting time, place, distance, weight, value etc, is called an Adverbial Object or Adverbial Accusative, and is said to be in the Accusative Case adverbially; as,
   * He held the post ten years.
   * I can't wait a moment longer.
   * He went home.
   * He swam a mile.
   * He weighs seven stone.
   * The watch cost fifty rupees.

1. There are a few Transitive Verbs which are sometimes used as Intransitive Verbs.

### Transitive

1. He broke the glass.
2. He burnt his fingers.
3. Stop him from going. 4. Open all the windows.

### Intransitive

1. The glass broke.
2. He burnt with shame.
3. We shall stop here a few days.
4. The show opens at six o'clock.

## VERBS OF INCOMPLETE PREDICATION

192. Read the following sentences:- 1. The baby sleeps.

2. The baby seems happy.

On the other hand if I say 'The baby seems' I do not make complete sense.

The Intransitive Verb seems requires a word (e.g., happy) to make the sense complete. Such a verb is called a Verb of Incomplete Predication.

The word happy, which is required to make the sense complete, is called the Complement of the Verb or the Completion of the Predicate.

193. Verbs of Incomplete Predication usually express the idea of being, becoming, seeming, appearing. The Complement usually consists of a Noun (called a Predicative Noun) or an Adjective (called a Predicative Adjective). When the Complement describes the Subject, as in the following sentences, it is called a Subjective Complement.

1. Tabby is a cat.
2. The earth is round.
3. John became a soldier.
4. Mr. Mehta became mayor.
5. The man seems tired.
6. You look happy.
7. The sky grew dark.
8. Roses smell sweet.
9. Sugar tastes sweet.
10. She appears pleased.
11. This house is to let.

Note.- When the Subjective Complement is a Noun (as in 1,3, 4) it is in the same case as the Subject, Le., in the Nominative Case.

194. Certain Transitive Verbs require, besides an Object, a Complement to complete their predication ; as,

1. The boys made Rama captain.
2. His parents named him Hari.
3. This made him vain.
4. The jury found him guilty.
5. Rama called his cousin a liar.
6. Exercise has made his muscles strong.
7. I consider the man trustworthy.
8. God called the light day.
9. We thought him a rascal.
10. They chose him their leader.

Here, in each case, the Complement describes the Object, and is, therefore, called an Objective Complement.

Note.- When the Objective Complement is a noun (as in 1,2, 5, 8, 9, 10) it is in the Objective (or Accusative) Case in agreement with the object.

## MOOD

1. The simplest use of a Verb is to make a statement of fact or ask a question ; as, I write to my brother every week.

Who wrote that letter?

But a Verb may also be used to express a command; as.

Write neatly.

Or a Verb may be used to express a mere supposition ; as,

If I were you, I would not do it.

These different modes or manners in which a Verb may be used to express an action are called Moods. (Lat. modus, manner.)

Def- Mood is the mode or manner in which the action denoted by the Verb is represented.

1. There are three Moods in English:- Indicative, Imperative, Subjunctive.

## Indicative Mood

204. The Indicative Mood is used:

1. To make a statement of fact; as, Rama goes to school daily.

We are taught Arithmetic.

He writes legibly.

Napoleon died at St. Helena.

The child is alive.

1. To ask a question; as, Have you found your book?

Are you well?

In each of these sentences the Verb in italics is said to be in the Indicative Mood.

205. The Indicative Mood is also used in expressing a supposition which is assumed as a fact; as,

If [= assuming as a fact that] I am to be a beggar, it shall never make me a rascal.

If it rains, I shall stay at home. [Assuming as a fact that it will rain, etc.]

If my friend wants it, 1 shall give it to him. [Assuming as a fact that my friend wants it,." etc.]

If he is the ring-leader, he deserves to be punished. [Assuming as a fact that he is the ring-leader, etc.]

A Verb which makes a statement of fact or asks a question, or expresses a supposition which is assumed as a fact, is in the Indicative Mood.

## Imperative Mood

206. The Imperative Mood is used to express- (1) A Command; as, Wait there.

Come here.

Open your book at page 7.

1. An exhortation; as, Be steady.

Take care of your health.

Try to do better.

1. An entreaty or prayer; as, Have mercy upon us.

Give us this day our daily bread.

In each of these sentences the Verb in italics is said to be in the Imperative Mood.

A Verb which expresses a command, an exhortation an entreaty or prayer, is in the Imperative Mood.

Note1.- The imperative mood can strictly be used only in the Second Person, since the person commanded must be the person spo-

ken to. But in the First and Third Persons a like sense is expressed by the use of the Auxiliary Verb let; as,

Let me go. Let us go. Let him go.

Let them go.

Note 2.- The Subject of a Verb in the Imperative Mood (you) is usually omitted.

## Subjunctive Mood

207. The following are the forms of the Subjunctive :

### Present Subjunctive

the verb 'be' -- other verbs

I be -- I speak

We be -- We speak You be -- You speak He be -- He speak They be -- They speak

### Post Subjunctive

the verb 'be' -- other verbs

I were -- I spoke

We were -- We spoke

You were -- You spoke

He were -- He spoke

They were -- They spoke

The Subjunctive Mood scarcely exists in present-day English.

208. The Present Subjunctive occurs

1. In certain traditional phrases, where it expresses a wish or hope ; as, .

God bless you !

God save the King !

Heaven help us !

1. In formal English, in a noun clause dependent on a verb expressing desire, intention, resolution, etc. ; as,

I move that Mr. Gupta be appointed Chairman.

It is suggested that a ring road be built to relieve the congestion.

We recommended that the subscription be increased to ten rupees.

209. The Past Subjunctive is used

1. After the verb wish, to indicate a situation which is unreal or contrary to fact; as, I wish I knew his name. (= I'm sorry I don't know his name,) I wish I were a millionaire.

She wishes the car belonged to you.

1. After if, to express improbability or unreality in the present; as,

If I were you I should not do that (but I am not you, and never can be). If we started now we would be in time (but we cannot start now).

1. After as if/as though, to indicate unreality or improbability; as, He orders me about as if I were his wife (but I am not).

He walks as though he were drunk (but he is not).

1. After it is time + subject; to imply that it is late; as, It is time we started.

1. After would rather + subject, to indicate preference; as, I would rather you went by air (= I should prefer you to go by air).

They would rather you paid them by cheque.

## THE VERB: PERSON AND NUMBER

250. The Verb, like the Personal Pronouns, has three Persons - the First, the Second and the Third. Thus we say

1. I speak.

You speak. (Old English: Thou speakest) 3. He speaks.

This is because of the difference in Person of the Subjects, as all the three are subjects of the singular number.

In sentence 1, the Subject is of the First Person, therefore the Verb is also of the First Person.

In sentence 2, the Subject is of the Second Person, therefore the verb is also of the Second Person.

In sentence 3, the Subject is of the Third Person, therefore the Verb is also of the Third Person.

We thus see that the Verb takes the same Person as its Subject; or, that the Verb agrees with its Subject in Person.

251. The Verb like the Noun and the Pronoun, has two Numbers the Singular and the Plural. Thus we say - 1. He speaks.

2. They speak.

This is because of the difference in Number of the subjects (as both the Subjects are of the third person).

In sentence 1, the Subject is Singular, therefore the Verb is Singular. In sentence 2, the Subject is Plural, therefore the Verb is Plural.

We thus see that the Verb takes the same Number as its Subject; or, that the Verb agrees with its Subject in Number.

252. But we have already seen that the Verb also agrees with its Subject in Person ; hence we have the important rule -

The Verb must agree with its Subject in Number and Person; that is, the Verb must be of the same Number and Person as its Subject. Thus, if the Subject is of the Singular Number, First Person, the Verb must be of the Singular Number, First Person ; as,

I am here.

I was there, I have a bat.

I play cricket.

If the Subject is of the Singular Number, Third Person, the Verb must be of the Singular

Number, Third Person; as, He is here.

He was there.

He has a bat.

He plays cricket.

If the Subject is of the Plural Number, Third Person, the Verb must be of the Plural

Number, Third Person ; as, They are here.

They were there.

They have bats.

They play cricket.

Note- In some languages the form of the Verb changes with the Number and Person of the Subject. In modern English verbs have lost all their inflections for number and person, except in the third person of the singular number. Thus we have-

I speak -- We speak.

You speak -- You speak. (You is both singular and plural in current English) He speaks -- They speak.

## THE INFINITIVE

1. Read these sentences; I want to go.

They tried to find fault with us.

The forms to go and to find are "infinitives."

The infinitive is the base of a verb, often followed by to.

1. Read the following sentences:- 1. To err is human.
2. Birds love to sing.
3. To respect our parents is our duty.
4. He refused to obey the orders.
5. Many men desire to make money quickly.

In sentence 1, the Infinitive, like a noun, is the Subject of the verb is.

In sentence 2, the Infinitive, like a noun, is the Object of the verb love.

In sentence 3, the Infinitive, like a noun, is the Subject of the verb is, but, like a verb, it also takes an object.

In sentence 4, the Infinitive, like a noun, is the Object of the verb refused, but, like a verb, it also takes an object.

In sentence 5, the Infinitive, like a noun, is the Object of the verb desire, but, like a verb, it also takes an Object and is modified by an Adverb.

It will be seen that the Infinitive is a kind of noun with certain features of the verb, especially that of taking an object (when the verb is Transitive) and adverbial qualifiers. In short, the Infinitive is a Verb-Noun.

1. The word to is frequently used with the Infinitive, but is not an essential part or sign of it.

Thus, after certain verbs (bid, let, make (Except when they are conjugated with do) need, (Except when they are conjugated with do) dare, see, hear), we use the Infinitive without to; as,

Bid him go there. I bade him go.

Let him sit here.

* 1. will not let you go.

## THE PARTICIPLE

260. Read this sentence:-

Hearing the noise, the boy woke up.

The word hearing qualifies the noun boy as an Adjective does.

It is formed from the Verb hear, and governs an object.

The word hearing, therefore, partakes of the nature of both a Verb and an Adjective, and is called a Participle. It may be called a Verbal Adjective.

Def. - A participle is that form of the Verb which partakes of the nature both of a Verb and of an Adjective.

[Or] A participle is a word which is partly a Verb and partly an adjective. 94

[Note. - The phrase 'Hearing the noise', which is introduced by a Principle, is called a Participle Phrase. According to its use here, it is an Adjective Phrase.]

261. Study the following examples of Participles:

1. We met a girl carrying a basket of flowers.
2. Loudly knocking at the gate, he demanded admission.
3. The child, thinking all was safe, attempted to cross the road.
4. He rushed into the field, and foremost fighting fell.

The above are all examples of what is usually called the Present Participle which ends in -ing and represents an action as going on or incomplete or imperfect.

If the verb from which it comes is Transitive, it takes an object, as in sentence 1. Notice also that in sentence 2, the Participle is modified by an adverb.

1. Besides the Present Participle, we can form from each verb another Participle called its Past Participle, which represents a completed action or state of the thing spoken of.

The following are examples of Past Participles:- • Blinded by a dust storm, they fell into disorder.

* + Deceived by his friends, he lost all hope.
  + Time misspent is lime lost.
  + Driven by hunger, he stole a piece of bread.
  + We saw a few trees laden with fruit.

It will be noticed that the Past Participle usually ends in -ed, -d, -t, -en, or -n.

Besides these two simple participles, the Present and the Past, we have what is called a Perfect Participle that represents an action as completed at some past time; as, Having rested, we continued our journey.

1. In the following examples the Participles are used as simple qualifying adjectives in front of a noun; thus used they are called Participle Adjectives:-

A rolling stone gathers no moss.

We had a drink of the sparkling water.

His tattered coat needs mending.

The creaking door awakened the dog.

A lying witness ought to be punished.

He played a losing game.

A burnt child dreads the fire.

His finished manners produced a very favourable impression.

He wears a worried look.

Education is the most pressing need of our country.

He was reputed to be the most learned man of his- time.

## THE GERUND

274. Read this sentence:- Reading is his favourite pastime.

The word reading is formed from the Verb read, by adding ing.

We also see that it is here used as the Subject of a verb, and hence does the work of a Noun. It is, therefore, a Verb-Noun, and is called a Gerund.

Further examples of Gerund:-

1. Playing cards is not allowed here.
2. I like reading poetry.
3. He is fond of hoarding money.

In sentence 1, the Gerund, like a noun, is the subject of a verb, but, like a verb, it also takes an object, thus clearly showing that it has also the force of a verb.

In sentence 2, the Gerund, like a noun, is the object of a verb but, like a verb, it also takes an object, thus clearly showing that it has also the force of a verb.

In sentence 3, the Gerund, like a noun, is governed by a preposition, but, like a verb, it also takes an object.

It will be noticed that the Infinitive and the Gerund are alike in being used as Nouns, while still retaining the power that a Verb has of governing another noun or pronoun in the objective case.

Def.- A Gerund is that form of the verb which ends in -ing, and has the force of a Noun and a verb.

## IRREGULAR VERBS

1. Verbs can be regular or irregular.
2. Regular verbs form their past tense and past participle by adding ed.

Base Form -- Past Tense -- Past Participle

Walk -- walked -- walked laugh -- laughed -- laughed

paint -- painted -- painted

1. Irregular verbs form their past tense and past participle in a different way from adding ed.

Base Form -- Past Tense -- Past Participle

Sit -- sat -- sat

Ring -- rang -- rung

Come -- came -- come

Cut -- cut -- cut

## AUXILIARIES AND MODALS

1. The verbs be (am, is, was, etc), have and do, when used with ordinary verbs to make tenses, passive forms, questions and negatives, are called auxiliary verbs or auxiliaries. (Auxiliary = helping)

1. The verbs can, could, may, might, will, would, shall, should, must and ought are called modal verbs or modals. They are used before ordinary verbs and express meanings such as permission, possibility, certainty and necessity. Need and dare can sometimes be used like modal verbs.

Modals are often included in the group of auxiliaries. In some grammars they are called “modal auxiliaries”.

1. The modals can, could, may, might, shall, should, will, would, must and ought are termed Defective Verbs, because some parts are wanting in them. They have no -s in the third person singular; they have no infinitve and ing forms. Be

1. The auxiliary be is used
2. In the formation of the continuous tenses; as, He is working. I was writing.

1. In the formation of the passive; as, The gate was opened.

Be followed by the infinitive is used

(1) To indicate a plan, arrangement, or agreement; as,

I am to sec him tomorrow.

We are to be married next month.

(2) To denote command; as,

You are to write your name at the top of each sheet of paper.

Mother says you are to go to market at once.

292. Be is used in the past tense with the perfect infinitive to indicate an arrangement that was made but not carried out; as,

They were to have been married last month but had to postpone the marriage until June.

## Have

1. The auxiliary have is used in the formation of the perfect tenses; as, He has worked. He has been working.

1. Have to is used with the infinitive to indicate obligation; as, I have to be there by five o'clock.

He has to move the furniture himself.

1. The past form had to is used to express obligation in the past.

I had to be there by five o'clock.

He had to move the furniture himself.

296. In negatives and questions, have to and had to are used with do, does, did; as, They have to go -- They don't have to go. Do they have to go?

He has to go. -- He doesn't have to go. Does he have to go? He had to go. -- He didn't have to go. Did he have to go?

## Do

297. The auxiliary do is used

1. To form the negative and interrogative of the simple present and simple past tenses of ordinary verbs; as, He dosen't work.

He didn’t work.

Does he work?

Did he work?

1. To avoid repetition of a previous ordinary verb; as, Do you know him? Yes, I do.

She sings well. Yes, she does.

You met him, didn't you?

He eats fish and so do you.

298. Do is also used to emphasize the affirmative nature of a statement; as,

You do look pale.

I told him not to go, but he did go.

299. In the imperative, do makes a request or invitation more persuasive; as, Do be quiet, Oh, do come! It's going to be such fun.

In such cases do is strongly stressed.

## Can, Could, May, Might

1. Can usually expresses ability or capacity; as, I can swim across the river.

He can work this sum. Can you lift this box?

1. Can and may are used to express permission. May is rather formal.

You can/may go now.

Can/May I borrow your umbrella?

1. May is used to express possibility in affirmative sentences. Can is used in the corresponding interrogative and negative sentences.

It may rain tomorrow.

He may be at home.

Can this be true?

It cannot be true.

Compare 'It cannot be true' with 'It may not be true'. Cannot denotes impossibility, while may not denotes improbability.

1. In very formal English, may is used to express a wish; as, May you live happily and long !

May success attend you !

1. Could and might are used as the past equivalents of can and may; as,

I could swim across the river when I was young. (Ability)

He said 1 might/could go. (Permission)

I thought he might be at home. (Possibility)

She wondered whether it could be true. (Possibility)

1. Could, as in the first example above, expresses only ability to do an act, but not the performance of an act. We should use was/were able to for ability +action in the past.

When the boat was upset, we were able to (or managed to) swim to the bank, (not: we could swim to the bank)

In negative statements, however, either could or was/were able to may be used. I couldn't (or: wasn't able to) solve the puzzle. It was too difficult.

1. In present-time contexts could and might are used as less positive versions of can and may; as,

I could attend the party. (Less positive and more hesitant than I can attend the party.)

Might/Could I borrow your bicycle ? (A diffident way of saying May/Can I……')

It might rain tomorrow. (Less positive than 'It may rain……’)

Could you pass me the salt ? (Polite request);

1. Might is also used to express a degree of dissatisfaction or reproach; as, You might pay a little more attention to your appearance.

1. Note the use of can, could, may and might with the perfect infinitive:

He is not there. Where can he have gone? (= Where is it possible that he has gone? - May expresses annoyance.)

You could have accepted the offer. (= Why didn't you accept the offer?)

Fatima may/might have gone with Saroja. (= Possibly Fatima has gone/ went with Saroja.)

Why did you drive so carelessly? You might have run into the lamppost. (= It is fortunate that you didn't run into the lamppost.)

## Shall, Should, Will, Would

309. Shall is used in the first person and will in all persons to express pure future. Today I/we shall is less common than I/we will.

I shall/will be twenty-five next birthday.

We will need the money on 15th.

When shall we see you again?

Tomorrow will be Sunday.

You will see that I am right.

In present-day English, however, there is a growing tendency to use will in all persons.

1. Shall is sometimes used in the second and third persons to express a command, a promise, or threat; as,

He shall not enter my house again. (Command)

You shall have a holiday tomorrow. (Promise)

You shall be punished for this. (Threat)

Note that these uses of shall are old-fashioned and formal and generally avoided in modern English.

1. Questions with shall I/we are used to ask the will of the person addressed; as,

Shall I open the door? (i,e., Do you want me to open it?)

Which pen shall I buy? (i.e., What is your advice?)

Where shall we go? (What is your suggestion?)

1. Will is used to express

(1) Volition; as,

I will (=am willing to) carry your books.

I will (=promise to) try to do better next time.

I will (=am determined to) succeed or die in the attempt. In the last example above, will is strong-stressed.

1. Characteristic habit; as,

He will talk about nothing but films.

She will sit for hours listening to the wireless.

1. Assumption or probability; as,

This will be the book you want, I suppose.

That will be the postman, I think.

1. Will you? indicates an invitation or a request; as, Will you have tea?

Will you lend me your scooter?

1. Should and would are used as the past equivalents of shall and will - as

I expected that I should (more often: would) get a first class.

He said he would be twenty-five next birthday.

She said she would carry my books.

She would sit for hours listening to the wireless, (Past habit)

1. Should is used in all persons to express duty or obligation; as, We should obey the laws.

You should keep your promise.

Children should obey their parents.

1. In clauses of condition, should is used to express a supposition that may not be true.

If it should rain, they will not come.

If he should see me here, he will be annoyed.

1. Should and would are also used as in the examples below.
2. I should (or: would) like you to help her. ('should/would like' is a polite form of 'want').

1. Would you lend me your scooter, please? ('Would you?' is more polite than 'Will you?')

1. You should have been more careful. (Should + perfect infinitive indicates a past obligation that was not fulfilled).

1. He should be in the library now. (Expresses probability)

1. I wish you would not chatter so much. (Would after wish expresses" a strong desire).

## Must, Ought to

1. Must is used to express necessity or obligation.

You must improve your spelling.

We must get up early.

318A. Must refers to the present or the near future. To talk about the past we use had to (the past form of have to); must has no past form.

Yesterday we had to get up early.

1. Must is often used when the obligation comes from the speaker. When the obligation comes from somewhere else, have to is often used. Compare:

I must be on a diet. (It is my own idea.)

I have to be on a diet. (The doctor has told me to be on a diet.)

319A. Must can also express logical certainty.

Living in such crowded conditions must be difficult. (=1 am sure it is difficult.)

She must have left already. (I am sure she has left already).

1. Ought (to) expresses moral obligation or desirability; as, We ought to love our neighbours.

We ought to help him.

You ought to know better.

1. Ought (to) can also be used to express probability.

Prices ought to come down soon.

This book ought to be very useful.

## Used (to), Need, Dare

322. The auxiliary used (to) expresses a discontinued habit.

There used to be a house there.

I used to live there when I was a boy.

Strictly speaking, used (to) is an auxiliary verb. In colloquial English, however, 'Did you use to' and 'did not use to' usually replace 'Used to' and 'Used not to'.

323. The auxiliary need, denoting necessity or obligation, can be conjugated with or without do. When conjugated without do, it has no -s and -ed forms and is used with an infinitive without to only in negative and interrogative sentences and in sentences that contain semi-negative words like 'scarcely' and 'hardly'.

He need not go. (= It is not nescessary for him to go) Need I write to him?

I need hardly take his help.

1. When conjugated with do, need has the usual forms needs, needed and is used with a to-infinitive. It is commonly used in negatives and questions; it sometimes occurs in the affirmative also. Do you need to go now? J don't need to meet him. One needs to be careful.

1. Compare:
2. I didn't need to buy it. (=It was not necessary for me to buy it and I didn't buy it.)
3. I needn't have bought it. (=It was not necessary for me to buy it, but I bought it),

326. The auxiliary dare (=be brave enough to), as distinct from the ordinary verb dare (=challenge), does not take -s in the third person singular present tense. It is generally used in negative and interrogative sentences. When conjugated without do, it is followed by an infinitive without to; when conjugated with do, it takes an infinitive with or

* without to after it.
* He dare not take such a step.
* How dare you contradict me?
* He dared not do it.
* He doesn't dare speak to me.