

UNIT TWO

AUXILIARY VERBS

Given below are twenty four auxiliary verbs which help or support the main verb:

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|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Be: am, is, are, was, 'were | Must : have to, am to, had to |
| Have: has, had | Ought to |
| Do: does, did | Used to |
| Shall: should | Need |
| Will: would | Dare |
| Can: could | |
| May: might | |

These are also called anomalous finites because they are different in some way from what is normal. They form their interrogative and negative without the helping verb 'do' but by the simple addition of 'not'. In spoken and informal written English the contracted form of *not* (n't) is used.

EXAMPLES:

He mustn't finish the work.

He didn't make a careful survey of the land.

Questions are formed by inversion of the auxiliary with subject:

EXAMPLE:

They will make tea.

Will they make tea?

In formal written English, questions are formed by placing 'not' after the subject, but in spoken English contracted form of 'not' (n't) is combined with the auxiliary.

EXERCISE:

Change the following statements into negative questions (both with the full and contracted forms of 'not') :

1. You transmit the message.
2. She puts on rather weird clothes.
3. I am willing to accept their conditions.
4. We ought to strike a note of compromise somewhere.
5. The contractors must finish the work today.
6. He has collected the reading material from different places.
7. You may ring up the party anytime.
8. The suppliers of the engineering goods have been asked to give tenders.
9. You can talk on phone.
10. I would be available tomorrow.

The auxiliary 'have' can be used as the main verb as well:

He has a grey beard.

I have had this Parker pen for more than twenty five years.

She will have a lot of money when she retires.

'Have' is conjugated with 'do' for habitual actions:

Do you have earthquakes in your country? Yes, but we do not have them often.

When the idea of 'habit' is not there, the 'have not got/ have you got' forms are more usual in Britain, whereas in America, it is used with 'do' forms. An American might say:

Can you help me now? Do you have time?

An English man would probably use the following expressions, in this situation:

Can you help me now? Have you got time?

The auxiliary 'have' can also be used to mean 'take' (a bath/ a lesson etc.); 'give' (a party); 'entertain' (guests); 'enjoy'; 'face' (difficulties/ trouble etc).

Have as used above obeys the following rules:

- (a) It is never followed by 'got'.

- (b) Its negative and interrogative are made, using do/did.
 (c) It can be used in the continuous tenses.

EXAMPLES :

We are having lunch early tomorrow.

She is having twenty persons to dinner tonight.

How many English lessons do you have a week?

You have lunch at 11 o'clock, don't you?

I am having a wonderful holiday.

Auxiliaries are used in the following constructions to avoid repetition:

- (a) Short questions:

Must you go there?

Yes, I must. (That means 'I must go there'.)

'Did he go to Bhopal?

No, he didn't. (That means 'He didn't go to Bhopal.')

- (b) In the construction - so/neither/nor + auxiliary + subject:

I can face this situation, and so can you. (i.e. You also can face it).

I should not distract his attention, and neither should you. (i.e. You should not distract his attention either).

Azher was not successful; nor was Tendulkar. (i.e. Tendulkar was not successful either).

EXERCISE:

Complete the following sentences with clauses beginning with so, neither, or nor:

1. We could visit the museum and ——— they.
2. Suresh need not go there and ——— Dinesh.
3. The compounder did not notice it; ——— the doctor.
4. He has to participate in the tournament and ——— they.
5. I did not invite them to dinner and ——— they.
6. You can learn the use of computer in six months and ——— he.

7. You are not ready to own the responsibility; — I.
8. He was asked to repeat the experiment and — You.
9. We shall not mind the lapses; — others.
10. I am willing to take up the job and — my wife.
11. You should not overlook it and — your superiors.
12. The teacher could not convince the supervisor and — the Principal.
13. His wife must not say anything to him; — his mother-in-law.
14. The researchers used to work in the Resource Centre and — the guide.
15. The artisan could not answer the question and — his supervisor.

MODALS

The auxiliary verbs already stated can also be used to express such concepts as ability, possibility, permission, obligation and prohibition. When these are used to express any of these concepts, they, are called 'modals.'

'Can' has the meaning of ability.

I can read French.

In the past 'could' or 'was able to' is used:

EXAMPLE:

I could read French when I was at the University.

In the future 'will/shall be able to' is used:

EXAMPLE:

I shall be able to read French soon.

EXERCISE:

Say the following in the past and future tenses using the given time expression:

I can borrow books from this library (last year; very soon)

I could borrow books from this library last year.

I shall be able to borrow books from this library very soon.

1. You can find him in the library (tomorrow morning; last week).
2. We can talk to anybody on STD within minutes (after an hour; when the line was free).
3. He can climb this hill (before he broke his leg; with a little training)
4. They can start drilling holes through diamonds (as soon as the cutter is ready; only when they got the permission)
5. The country can build its own rocket launchers (in the next few years; before the Second World War)

'Can' has the sense of 'permission' in this sense it may refer to the future also:

You can go now.

You can come tomorrow.

'Can' in this sense has no past equivalent.

In the sense of 'permission' 'can' can be replaced by 'may', although it is a little more formal.

You can take it away.

You may take away the leftovers.

'Could' is used in requests to show greater politeness.

Could I borrow your calculator?

'Can' has the meaning of 'possibility'. Can is replaceable in this sense by 'may'.

He can be at the theatre.

He may be at the theatre.

'Can' is not replaceable by 'might' in this sense in questions.

Now look to the following sentence:

He can swim. (i.e. He has always the capacity to swim.)

Now look at this sentence:

He can (could) be very stubborn. (It is clear that he is not stubborn all the time, but he can be so occasionally.)

EXERCISE:

Change the following sentences into a construction similar to the one given in the example; omitting the underlined adverbs:

EXAMPLE:

A visit to a zoo is sometimes very interesting.

A visit to a zoo can be very interesting.

1. Little Spencer is sometimes very mischievous but generally he is a good boy.
2. The medicine is generally useful in the treatment of schizophrenia.
3. That fellow is quite amusing occasionally.
4. In certain circumstances it is very dangerous to touch this animal.
5. The advice of parents is often quite useful.
6. It is sometimes quite hot here in the month of July.
7. Our house master was sometimes very strict with us.
8. Knowing English is frequently of great value.
9. I warn you that the girl is sometimes very nasty if provoked.
10. Drinking too much is often bad for the health.
11. It is often quite hot in the hostel rooms when the sun shines.
12. All of us are forgetful occasionally.
13. The rattling sound of the machines at times gets on my nerves.
14. Even the best and the most precise equipment sometimes become troublesome.
15. He is at times late; but he is generally punctual.

'NEED' AND 'DARE'

In the simple present tense 'need' and 'dare' have both a *regular and anomalous form in the negative and interrogative:*

Does he dare to?

Dare he _____?

Do you need to ? Need you _____?

He doesn't dare to _____. He daren't.

We don't need to _____. We needn't.

The absence of necessity in the past can be expressed in two ways:

a) I needn't have done such a thing. (i.e. I needn't have done such a thing – but I did and I realize now that it wasn't really necessary.)

b) I didn't need to do such a thing. (i.e. I didn't do it because I realized then that it wasn't necessary.)

MUSTN'T AND NEEDN'T

'Must' expresses either of two things 'necessity' or 'obligation'. 'Mustn't' means negative obligation, whereas 'needn't' means absence of obligation.

We must take our umbrellas because it is raining. (necessity)

We must obey our teacher. (obligation)

EXERCISE:

Answer the following questions in the negative:

1. Must you go to the theatre now?
2. Must you come to the dining table with dirty hands?
3. Must we speak with our mouths full?
4. Must you have bath before breakfast?
5. Must a student neglect his studies?
6. Must you walk about the house with shoes?
7. Must you go to the office in a dark suit?

EXERCISE:

Add 'mustn't' or 'needn't' in the blank spaces:

1. You _____ finish your food if you don't want.
2. You _____ use the jargon of science and technology in ordinary day to day speech.

3. The doctor said I — smoke so much.
4. The word children — now be stressed on the last syllable.
5. You — hurry there's still plenty of time for the train to arrive.
6. He — eat such rich food it makes him fat.
7. I — tell you the answer because I promised not to.
8. I — tell you how foolish it would be to do that.
9. You — walk in the middle of the road; it can be suicidal.
10. The children — talk so loud, or they will wake the baby.
11. You — study as the examination is over.
12. You — smoke at a petrol pump it is highly inflammable.
13. You — smoke day in and day out like a chimney, it is injurious to health.
14. She — carry a raincoat with her; the sky is clear.
15. They — go to the theatre in the hot Sun; they can easily see the evening show.

'Must' in the sense of 'inference' or 'probability':

Look at these sentences:

He must be at least thirty years old.

What you say must be true.

Their children must be grown up by now.

Here 'must' does not have the sense of obligation. It means we 'infer' the truth of something for lack of evidence to the contrary.

We cannot use 'ought to' or 'should' in this sense.

EXAMPLES:

Surely Jain is older than his wife.

Jain must be older than his wife.

I suppose she was thirty when I first met her.

She must have been thirty when I first met her.

'Must' can be used in the sense of 'inference' and 'can' in the sense of 'possibility'.

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EXERCISE:

Use 'must' or 'can' in the blanks:

1. A large number of passengers are coming out of the railway station. The train—— have arrived.
2. The office staff are angry so they —— go on strike.
3. The Alps is covered with ice all the year round. It —— be extremely cold there.
4. Their house is locked up; they —— have gone on tour.
5. The teacher's vacation has begun. He—— go out to meet his son.

'SHALL' AND 'WILL'

The tense in English with 'shall', 'will' as auxiliary verbs is used for the future and is called the simple future tense.

But what happens in future is generally a result of our intention, wish, determination, promise, or willingness. It is natural that these words 'shall' and 'will' usually have some additional meaning beyond the simple idea of futurity.

Given below are the most important meanings of 'shall' and 'will':

1. 'Shall' with second and third persons indicates 'promise', prohibition in the negative, and the idea of obligation.

EXAMPLES:

They shall not enter the kitchen with shoes on. (prohibition)

You shall do as you have been told. (obligation)

2. 'Will' with all persons indicates intention and willingness in the affirmative and refusal in the negative.

EXERCISE:

Insert 'shall' or 'will' whichever is appropriate in the blanks:

1. You—— not go until you finish the drawing assignment.
2. I think you —— like the painting when you see it.

3. No one shall carry any explosives in the train carriage.
4. All the students shall submit their assignment by 25th May 95. If any student fails to do so he shall be detained from appearing in the final examination.
5. The management has announced that the employees of the factory shall get bonus for the current year.
6. If you turn to the left, you will notice a church.
7. The army will shoot down any enemy plane seen flying over our territory.
8. They will complete the jobs as soon as possible.
9. What will you do if you get the sack?
10. The instructors shall not leave the place, unless the water supply pipeline is repaired.
11. You will be glad to know that your friend has now got married.
12. The Government of India shall look after the refugees from Afganistan and Sri Lanka and shall do everything it can to help them go back to their countries.

'Will' is used to make polite requests.

EXAMPLE:

Will you sweep my sitting room?

'Shall' is used to make a suggestion as well as an offer of service.

EXAMPLES:

Shall I take you to the Principal's office?

Shall I carry your luggage?

EXERCISE:

Use 'shall' or 'will' whichever is appropriate:

1. Shall we have tea?
2. Let me show you how to do it, shall I?

3. Just come here a moment, _____ you?
4. _____ I go and get you a cup of tea from the canteen?
5. _____ we buy a new suit for you?
6. Let's order dinner _____ we?
7. Have another cup of tea, _____ you?
8. _____ you teach my brother phonetics, please?
9. For heaven's sake don't provoke me to the extent of losing my sanity, _____ you?
10. _____ I ring you up at 5 o'clock in the morning?

'WOULD' AND 'SHOULD'

- (a) As past tense form of 'will' and 'shall' used in indirect speech:

EXAMPLES :

I'll give you some more money.

He said he would give me some more money.

You shall have another ice-cream if you wish!

He said I should have another ice-cream if I wished.

- (b) Polite requests 'would' with the second person:

EXAMPLES :

Would you like to have tea?

Would you be so kind as to help me lift the trunk out of the library

- (c) Expressions of 'desire' and 'preference':

First person 'should' second and third person 'would':

EXAMPLES:

I shall like to have two butter slices more.

Would you rather have tea or milk?

He would prefer to have coffee.

(d) 'Obligation or showing an assumption' (ought to)

EXAMPLES :

You should be more watchful.

They should be here by now.

You shouldn't speak so loud in the library.

I should eat lunch now, but I don't want to.

(e) Hypothetical situations in second and third persons:

EXAMPLES:

He would succeed, if he worked hard.

He would have succeeded, if he had worked hard.

I wish he would work hard.

If only he would work hard this year.

'Would' is used for hypothetical situations after such phrases as; If only, I wish, We wish, He wishes etc. It is used when the situation depends upon effort or will on the part of another person.

EXAMPLES:

If you add sulphuric acid to water, heat will be produced.

If you added sulphuric acid to water, heat would be produced.

If you had added sulphuric acid to water, heat would have been produced.

EXERCISE:

Change as suggested in the examples above :

1. If you add common salt to water, it will ionize.
2. If you accept the offer, you will have opportunities to go abroad.
3. If you study hard, you will succeed.
4. If there is no rain now, the crop will be ruined.
5. If the rain fails, there will be famine.

6. If you rub your hands, you will feel warm.
7. If the Entrepreneurship Development Programme participants follow the schedule, they will come out with substantial results.
8. If you put a few red roses in a flask of chlorine, they will bleach.
9. If you arrive at the station at 10'o clock, you will find a large crowd.
10. If you wish to succeed in your effort this year, you need to concentrate in the task at hand.

'SHOULD' AND 'MUST'

Should expresses the sense of duty or desirability.

If you wish to digest your food properly and enjoy its taste, you should chew it carefully.

We should help the needy.

'Must' expresses immediate or future obligation or necessity.

We must obey our parents and respect our teachers.

People must vacate the village, as the flood has crossed the danger mark.

'Had to' is the past tense equivalent of must:

We had to help him as no one else came forward.

EXERCISE:

Rewrite the following sentences in the past tense:

1. They must call off the strike at once.
2. Passengers must fasten their seat belts, when the plane takes off.
3. My mother is ill. I must go home early.
4. We must accept the challenge and work hard to overcome the hazards of environmental pollution.

5. We must give up the idea of building the extremely costly project.
6. The government must construct approach-roads to all the villages as a first step towards rural development.
7. The contractor must be told about the defects in the structure.
8. The research scholars must submit their synopses.
9. They must finish the task within two days.
10. The cooler must be repaired on priority basis as it is extremely hot nowadays.

'COULD' AND 'MIGHT'

'Could' as an alternative to 'may/might'.

'Could be' can be used instead of may/might be.

I wonder where the peon is! He may/might/could be in the library.

I wonder why Bill isn't here?

He could still be waiting for a bus.

Do you think the plane will be on time?

I don't know. It may/might/could be delayed by fog.

OUGHT TO

It is a modal verb. It can be used for present, future, and past, if preceded by a verb in the past tense.

'Ought to' / 'should' is used to express the subject's obligation/ duty or to indicate correct or sensible action.

He shouldn't/ ought not to allow parking here.

Here there is neither the speaker's authority, as with 'must', nor internal authority as with 'have to'.