

## UNIT –III

### Auxiliary and Main Verbs

Definition: A verb is a word that describes the state of a person or what he does.

Verbs are classified into two categories; Main verbs and Auxiliary Verbs. Main verbs occur independently in a sentence and convey the complete meaning of the action. But there are some verbs which occur along with the main verbs and indicate tense, aspect voice, mood / intention of the speaker. They are called **auxiliary** verbs.

*I wrote a letter.* (main verb)

*I was writing a letter.* (auxiliary+ main verb)

When a verb phrase contains more than one verb, the last verb in the phrase is the main verb. All other verbs are auxiliaries.

*I have been writing a letter.*

Here, last verb "writing " is the main verb and the other two 'have' and 'been' are auxiliaries.

#### Type of Auxiliary verbs

(a) Primary Auxiliaries and (b) Modal Auxiliaries (c) Semi-Modals

'Be' 'Do' and 'Have' are the primary auxiliaries. They can be used both as Main Verbs and Auxiliary verbs. They change their forms according to the Number and person of the subject.

Present tense	Past tense
Be = is, am, are	was, were
Do= do, does	did
Lave = have ,has	had

*Sita is very beautiful*

*Ramesh dose his work*

*I have a large house.*

**Be, do and have** are used as main verbs.

Uses of **Be**

The verb 'be' is used:

- (i) As an aspect of auxiliary and varies according to the tense of the verb, number and person of the subject.  

*The children are sleeping.*
- (ii) In the formation of passive.  

*Many accidents are caused by carelessness.*
- (iii) To convey orders or instruction  

*This book is not to be sold.*
- (iv) To convey a plan or a decision;  

*We are to leave the city early.*
- (v) To describe things that are fated to take place (be +infinitive)  

*We thought that they would live together forever but they were to part again.*

- (vi) In question tag “I am a teacher, aren't I?”, ‘Be’ is used as an ordinary verb.  
*I am a teacher.*
- (vii) In sentences expressing height, age, weight, length shape colour and size  
*I am five feet tall.*  
*My sister is 40 years old.*
- (viii) With ‘do’ to form negative and imperative sentences.  
*Don't talk nonsense.*  
*Do be careful.*

### Uses of ‘Have’

‘Have’ is used:

- (i) With the meaning of possession /experience/ relationships and similar ideas.  
I / we / you /they /have/haven't  
Have I/we.... Haven't I/we....  
*I have a house in Puri.*  
*I have one elder sister.*
- (ii) to make perfect verb form  
*Sita has visited Agra.*
- (iii) to make Questions,  
*Have you seen him today?*
- (iv) In conditional sentences in non –if clauses to mean an action in future which is the result of present action.  
*If you come late in the night, you 'll have all the street dogs barking.*
- (v) With the auxiliary **do** for habitual action.  
Do you have a car?

### Do

Auxiliary ‘do’ is used to make questions, negatives, in emphatic sentences and short forms.

- Did you watch the movie?*  
*He does not enjoy swimming.*
- (i) ‘Do’ is used as a main verb when it comes after an auxiliary.  
*She might do that work. (main verb)*
- (ii) Auxiliary and non- auxiliary ‘do’ can be used together in a sentence  
*How do you do?*  
*The firm did not do very well in the last two years.*
- (iii) ‘Do’ is used with the main verbs to make questions but not with other auxiliary verbs  
*Do you speak English?*
- (iv) ‘Do’ is used with the main verbs to make negative sentences.  
*Don't laugh.*
- (v) 'Do' is used for emphasis in affirmative sentences.  
*You do seem upset today.*
- (vi) "Do " is used in inverted structures where the verb comes before the subject.  
*At no time does he use his bike.*

(vii) 'Do' is used as an ordinary verb.

*I am doing fine.*

{We shall discuss Modal Auxiliaries and Semi-modals like be discussed in the modals section in detail }

### **Activity /Exercise**

#### **File in the blanks with suitable auxiliaries.**

- (i) I ----- not play ( have, do, does)
- (ii) She ----- gone to school. (do, has, have)
- (iii) They ----- not eat meat. ( do, does, have)
- (iv) ----- the hero come to help the heroine in time? (do, did, does )
- (v) ----- (am, is, are) there anything for dinner?
- (vi) She loves old painting; so----- (do, does ) her sister.
- (vii) The college ----- (have) to be closed before Puja vacation.
- (viii) He----- gone to school. ( have, do, has)
- (ix) ----- the doctor go to hospital yesterday.( do, did, does)
- (x) ----- we go to the cinema? ( will, shall, have)

## **Time, Tense and Aspect**

### **Introduction**

Time is what we measure in hours, days, years etc. Tense refers to an action with a specific time reference. It is in relation to time that we understand the structure of tense. We usually indicate whether we are referring to a situation which exists now, existed in the past or is likely to exist in the future.

Read the following sentences.

*Hari: What are you doing?*

*Ramesh: I am writing a letter to my friend*

*Hari: Sita wrote a letter to me. I will reply tomorrow.*

**Definition of Tense:** A set of verb forms that indicate a particular point in time or period of time in the past, present or future is called a tense. It shows time of an action and its degree of completion.

### **Tense and Time**

Tense is the form of the verb when we use the 'present tense', we use the present form of the verb. To express 'past tense' we use past form of the verb. We express a future event we use the present form of the verb, ( simple present, present continuous, and sometimes, use future markers like 'll, shall and modals. So, there is no future tense. Time and Tense are not the same. 'Shall' and 'will' perform different function apart from showing the future action.

**Examples:** *Will you post the letter?* ( polite request)

*Jadu shall come if I order him.* ( obligation)

Further there are other ways of referring future time without using future tense.

*My brother is leaving for New Delhi tomorrow.  
Our examination begins on 5th November.  
He is about to speak.*

Some times past tense is used to express impossible wishes.

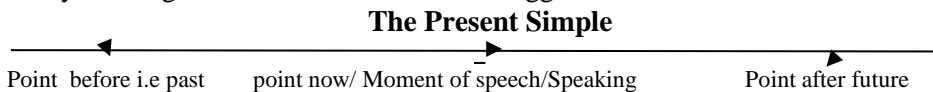
*I wish I knew her.*

It can also be used for unreal condition.

*If Ram came, I should leave.*

Thus there is no one to one relationship with Time and Tense.

Study the diagram to remember what we suggested.



- a. The race starts at 3 pm.
- b. Water boils at 100 centigrade.
- c. Have you ever been to
- d. We will be leaving to Puri tomorrow.
- e. Would you mind if I opened the window?.

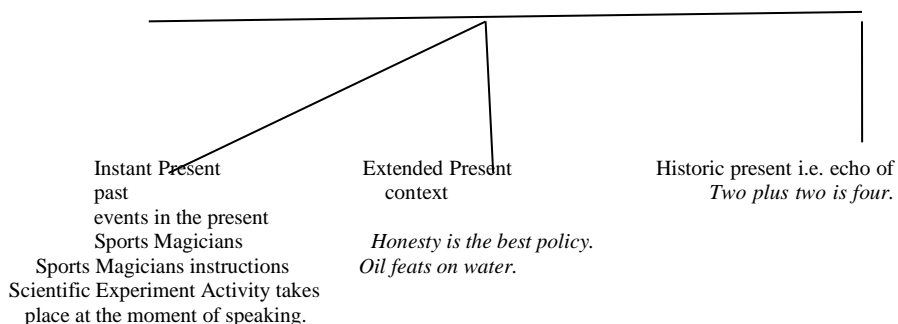
The present simple is used to describe persons or things in their usual state or to talk about some activity that takes place habitually or regularly. The present progressive is used to talk about some activity that is going on now at the moment of speaking.

The **simple present** is used:

- (i) To express habitual action  
*I visit my uncle's house twice a week.*  
Adverbs of frequency such as always, ever, never, occasionally or every day, twice a week, on Sundays etc are added to simple present.
- (ii) To express universal truth; i.e., time in the past, present and future ,  
*The sun rises in the east.*  
*Honey is sweet.*
- (iii) To express a historical truth  
If you can describe the things of the past by using simple present, it will give vivid picture as if the things are happening now.  
*The enemy advances in the hill terrain and fires at the enemy soldiers.*
- (iv) To express a future event that is part of a fixed programme.  
*The train leaves at 6 pm.*
- (v) In conditional sentences  
*If it rains we shall get wet.*  
*If you read loudly, I will be able to hear you.*
- (vi) In vivid narratives as a substitute of the simple past
- (vii) In sports commentaries to describe events in progress .  
*Here comes our Chief Guest.....*  
*Player x heads the ball to the net, it returns, other players run after him.....*

- (viii) In exclamatory sentence beginning with *here* and *there* to express what is actually taking place in the present ; as,  
*There she goes .....*  
 Speeches of authors dead or alive can be expressed by simple present .  
*Shelley says, " I fall or the thorns of life, I bleed. "*
- (ix) As a verb of perception.  
*I feel some pain.*

**See the use of Simple Present in the diagram.**



### **Habitual / Iterative present**

*I play cricket regularly.*

Simple present is used in the verbs of communication

*John tells me you are getting s new car.*

*I hear that the old man has lost his purse.*

Initiating a message in the past and the communication is still in force.

### **Present Continuous**

It is used for an action going on at the time of speaking.

*The boys are playing cricket.*

In order to emphasise the time of speaking, you can often use adverbs, adverbs phrases of present time like *at the moment, just now, just 'etc*

*I am feeling very sad now.*

Indicates an activity that takes place at the time of speaking.	<i>Raman is riding a scooter.</i>
Indicates an activity that is about to take place in near future. It is planned at the present.	<i>My mother is visiting Shiridi Saibaba this month.</i>
Indicates an activity that does not necessarily continue at the time of speaking.	<i>Hari is reading a novel.</i> <i>I am missing my father.</i>
Indicates an activity that continues.	<i>The baby is crying for food.</i>

Indicates repeated action used with adverbs of frequency like constantly, repeatedly, forever etc.	<i>He is knocking at the door.</i>
Indicates habitual actions that take place regularly.	<i>He is seeing a lot of Hindi films these days.</i>

In terms of meaning, the Simple Present and the Present Continuous have a few differences.

1) Simple present does not have specific duration. <i>He lives in the village</i> (permanent residence)	Present continuous has a duration . <i>He is living in the village</i> (temporary residence).
2) The present simple indicates completeness of the event <i>The taxi stops.</i> ( comes to a halt ) <i>My business runs well for all the time.</i>	The present progressive/ continuous refers to an activity which has limited duration <i>The taxi is stopping.</i> (slowing down). <i>My business is running well.</i> (earlier it was not )
3) The simple present says about past present, future . <i>The sun rises in the last.</i>	The progressive is included in the present and does not say anything about the past or future of the action. <i>She is having a bath.</i> The speaker does not know when she began her bath, nor knows when she would finish it.

The following verbs are not normally used in the continuous form.

- (i) Verbs of perception – see, hear, smell
- (ii) Verbs of emotion – want, wish feel, like love hate, hope etc.
- (iii) Verb of cognition – think, believe, remember, know, understand, mean, mind
- (iv) Verbs of possession – own, belong
- (v) Verbs of appearing – seem, appear, look, happen

**Examine the pairs of sentences given below.**

- a) (i) *She feels happy*  
(ii) *She is feeling the heat now*
- a) (i) *Sugar tasted sweet*  
(ii) *Sugar is tasting less sweet those days*
- c) (i) *I see a bird.*  
(ii) *I am seeing a bird.*

The stative verbs that refer to some state, condition, quality etc of a person or thing do not change, but in the active sense they can take the progressive.

**Exercise 01 – Choose the correct verb forms those given in the brackets and fill gaps.**

- i) My sister ----- (play) badminton now but she normally--  
----- (not play) here every day.
- ii) I usually ----- (enjoy) reading books but I ----- (not  
enjoy) this one very nice.
- iii) The soup ----- good. (taste, tastes is testing)
- iv) He----- TV most evenings. (watches ,is watching, watch)
- v) The baby ----- all morning (cries, has been crying)
- vi) She----- (not work), she----- (swim) in the room
- vii) Yes, it ( rain) very hard you can't go out
- viii) He usually ( drink) coffee but today ,he (drink) tea
- ix) I----- ( wear) my sun glasses today because the sun is  
very strong.
- x) Who----- (own) this umbrella? I----- (not know)  
Everybody----- (use) it but nobody----- (know) who -----  
---(own) it.

**Exercise 2: Rewrite the sentences, using the correct forms of the verbs given in brackets.**

Yesterday it ----- ( rain) heavily. But the weather ----- ( be) fine today.  
The sun----- ( shine) brilliantly. Dark clouds are still----- ( float) in the  
sky. If it----- (rain), the match will be abandoned.

**Exercise 3: The following sentences have mistakes relating to the usage of the present simple and continuous tenses, correct them.**

1. I am knowing your girl friends.
2. Presently she is depending on others.
3. She is not hearing you.
4. Rekha is not thinking very clearly.
5. I am belonging to a large family.

**Exercise 4: Circle the correct verbs to complete the dialogue.**

**Customer:** I need /am needing to update my information for your files .

**Agent:** Just give me a second, sir. I look/am looking for the information  
you need.

**Customer:** My computer information in/are not correct.

**Agent:** I will update that for you. I need /am needing the serial number on  
the back of your computer,

**Customer:** It is/are 54829. How long will it take you to update / updating  
the system?

**Agent:** I also require requires the warranty information.

**Exercise 5: Write down one thing each that you like or love doing and hate doing and don't mind doing.**

Examples: *I love singing. I hate cooking.*

Question	Yes	No
Do you think smoking is anti-social?		
Do you mind .....		
Should the law forbid.....		
Do you love singing.....	-----	-----

**Exercise 6: Complete the sentences by using progressive form of the verb.**

Q. How could you get someone come to you?

A. ....By calling them.

Q. .... get into a closed house?

..... break an egg ?

..... find out what the time is ?

..... persuade someone to do what you want?

..... get someone to laugh?

..... put a baby to sleep?

..... get money?

**Exercise 7: Fill in the blank with right forms of the verbs with right forms of the verbs given in brackets.**

1. He ----- (go) downstairs when we met him.
2. The plane that you----- (look) at now just ----- ( take off)
3. He come ----- ( crush) at me.
4. She ----- (type) the letters when the bell rang.
5. The earth ----- ( move) round the sun.

**Exercise 8: Use the verbs in brackets in simple present or present progressive whichever is appropriate.**

Our college library -----(open) at 10am and -----(close) at 7am. The students ----- (read) silently now. One boy and one girl student ----- ( disturb) the peaceful atmosphere of the library. They ----- ( ignore) looking at the warning 'Silence please'.

**The Present Perfect**

The present perfect is used:

- (i) To indicate completed activities in the recent past.  
*Ramesh has just arrived.*
- (ii) To indicate or Example press pact actions whose time is not definite.  
*My brother has been to the United States .*
- (iii) To describe past events which have effects on the present.  
*I have injured my left arm.*
- (iv) To denote an action beginning at same time in the past and continuing up to the present.  
*Madhu has been ill since last month.*
- (v) To denote past action without a specific time.



*He has helped me several times.*

(vi) In Questions

*Have you found out your purse?*

(vii) The present perfect is used with adverbs like so far, till now, today, already, this week etc.

*I have already finished my work.*

(viii) The present perfect is never used with adverbs of past time.

*\*He has gone to Hyderabad yesterday.*

*He went to Hyderabad yesterday.*

**Exercise 1: Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect and fill in the blanks.**

1. You ( wash) the plates ?  
Yes, I ----- .
2. I just -----(wash) the floor
3. I -----(invite) him to dinner several times.  
He always ----- ( refuse).
4. I ----- ( buy) a new TV. Come and have a look at it
5. I -----( not pay) the telephone bill yet.

**Exercise 2: Correct the errors.**

1. I never hurt anyone before.
2. Last week, I have gone to see my uncle.
3. Are you gone crazy?
4. My family never went outside our hometown.
5. I have cooked with mother last night.

**Exercise 3: Study the situations suggested below and make sentences with yet, just, already.**

- a. My father goes to the post office but returns after a while.  
Mother asks you if he is still there,  
You; No, ( come back)-----
- b. You know that your friend is looking for a house when you meet him.  
You want to know if he has been successful  
You -----
- c. You are doing your homework. Your brother thinks that you have finished and turns the light off. What would you tell him?  
You -----
- d. Your teacher wanted to know what you ----- (do) the previous week.
- e. She usually ----- (go) to school by bus, but today she ----- (go) on foot.

**Exercise 4: You have done the following things and some other things you have not done.**

1. Write to father for sending money.

2. Make a call to your classmate.
3. Do your home work / Pray to God.
4. Buy vegetables from the market
5. Purchase books.
6. I have already done my home work.

**Exercise 5: Choose the correct alternative from those given in brackets.**

1. Look, the sun ----- over the hills. (rises, is rising, has risen)
2. Our guests ----- ; they are sitting in the drawing room ( arrived, have arrived, had arrived)
3. My friend is a writer. She ----- (write) many books. ( wrote, have written, has written)
4. We ----- our lunch one hour before. ( finished have finished had finished)
5. He thanked me for what I ----- . ( have done, had done, have been doing)

**Exercise 6**

**Write the full sentence**

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. PM to visit Canada                        | <input type="text"/> |
| 2. Hotel owner held for<br>Building collapse | <input type="text"/> |
| 3. Students fight for more<br>hostel seats   | <input type="text"/> |
| 4. Six killed in explosion                   | <input type="text"/> |
| 5. Trade figures improving                   | <input type="text"/> |

**Present Perfect Continuous**

It is used:

- (i) for an action which began at some time in the past and is still continuing.  
*I have been waiting for the bus for an hour.*
- (ii) Is used to indicate events or actions that have just ended.  
*You look out of breath. Have you been running?*
- (iii) Is used with words like lately, recently, since etc,  
*She has been fasting for the last four days.*

**Past Simple**

It is used in the following situations.

- (i) For a definite past action  
*It rained yesterday.*
- (ii) When the action took place at a definite time but is not stated clearly.  
*The train arrived late.*
- (iii) An activity that took place regularly or repeatedly in the past but which no longer occurs.  
*On Sundays we learned Music.*

- (iv) In subordinate clauses to refer to something desirable or to refer to unreal state of thing.  
*I wish I knew her name.*
- (v) Polite enquiries  
*I hope he would excuse me.*

**Exercise 1:** You want to describe your experience on a rainy day. Use the simple past and the past continuous.

*It was Monday. I was going to college.*

**Exercise 2:** You visited a hill station during the summer vacation. Describe the interesting sights in simple past.

**Exercise 3:** Start a simple chain of events with the following sentences.

- 1) Yesterday I went to see a circus -----
- 2) I witnessed a football match.-----
- 3) I was an eye witness to a road accident-----

**Exercise 4:** Write about an event in your life that made a big difference.

*I went to study at a place*

*Long away from home ..*

*What did you study?*

*How was the campus?*

.....

**Exercise 5:** Select a scene and time for a crime –say, chain – snatching in your locality at 10 pm yesterday.

### Past Continuous Tense

The Past Continuous Tense is used:

- (i) To describe an activity that was in progress in the past for some time.  
*The cows were grazing in the field. We were planting trees for two hours.*
- (ii) To describe habits in the past when used with always, continually  
*I was always watching the TV.*  
Adverbs and adverbials like while, when, always, last year etc. are usually found with verbs in the past progressive.
- (iii) To indicate the continuity of an activity or state when another activity occurs.  
*When I entered your house, you were playing chess.*
- (iv) To indicate the simultaneous occurrence of the two activities.  
*Mother was cooking. Father was reading newspaper and I was playing with my younger sister.*

### Past Perfect

Past perfect basically means 'earlier past'. It is used:

- (i) To describe something that had already taken place at the time ( past) when it is being talked  
*We wondered who had seen the ghost.*  
*By the time we reached the station, the train had already left.*
- (ii) To describe past events that did not take place  
*If I had accepted my fault, he would have forgiven me.*

### Past Perfect Continuous

It describes an action that describes an activity in the past and continues in the present.

*I have been pointing the picture for four hours.*

It is used with words like lately, recently, this year.

*She had been fasting for the last seven days.*

Past perfect continuous is also used to describe an event that had continued up to the past time that we are speaking about

*He went to the doctor because he had been vomiting.*

### Exercise 1: You visit a city-garden /park yesterday. What were the persons there doing?

*Children were playing.*

*Old persons -----*

*Security persons-----*

*Yoga practitioners -----*

*Laughter – exercising people-----*

*Fast – food sellers-----*

*Etc.-----*

### Exercise 02: Write down two fairly unusual or interesting things that have happened to you. One should be true and one false. For example, ‘I saw Taj Mahal in Agra’. Once I saw a crocodile in the pond.

### Exercise 03: Put the verbs in brackets into the simple past tense.

1. It ----- ( not / rain) a lot.
2. We----- ( see) some beautiful rainbows.
3. Where -----( spend ) your last holiday.
4. He ----- ( visit ) a lot of interesting places.
5. Last year I ----- ( spend) my holiday in Kashmir.

### Exercise 04: Put the verbs in brackets in to the Present Perfect.

- i) The ship ---- (sink). It can't be seen any more.
- ii) He ---- (put ) his bicycle away for the monsoon.
- iii) She----- ( never /eat) meat in her life.
- iv) I ----- ( wear) these boots to go hiking.
- v) I ---- ( buy ) a new pair of shorts.

### Future Time

We can express the simple future in different ways.

- i) Simple present – *He goes to Ranchi tomorrow.*

- ii) Present continuous – *John is flying to London.*
- iii) Be going to- *We are going to win the match.*
- iv) Will/shall is used to indicate a time in the future take adverbials like next |(week, month, year) tomorrow etc.  
*We will watch the match in the Nehru Stadium tomorrow.*
- v) Modals – *It may rain ( The sky is cloudy)*
- vi) Past simple is used to indicate future time in conditional clauses.  
*If I had the money, I would buy a flat.*
- vii) The present perfect is used to indicate future time.  
*She will join a singing group when she has finished her studies.*
- (viii) Future perfect is used to describe an action that will be completed at a given point of time in future.  
*By the end of this month, we shall have shifted to our house.*
- (ix) To describe an action that will be completed at a given point of time in future you use future perfect continues.  
*She will have been learning dance for six your by October two year.*
- (x) To refer to an event or action that will be in progress at a given point of time in future.  
*My uncle will be retiring next year when he turns 60.*

#### **Exercise-01**

**Write complete sentences for the plan outlines using the hints given below. Use the present progressive. Look at the example before you proceed.**

*Drive a car: Are you going to drive a car?*

*Listen music*

*Go to Cinema*

*Lodge a complaint*

#### **Exercise-02**

**List the changes that you expect to see in the next ten years. Look at the example.**

*Every home will have a video telephone.*

Hints:

- Education
- Politics
- Fashion
- Healthcare
- Smart Kitchen

**Exercise-03: Use shall/will to fill in the blanks.**

- (i) We ---- win the war.
- (ii) ----- they visit us in the next vacation?
- (iii) \_\_\_\_\_leave now?
- (iv) She----- not be coming with us.
- (v) I ----- finish the work before noon.

#### **Exercise-04**

**Fill in the blanks with the suitable future forms of the verbs given in brackets.**

- (i) If he (go) to Chennai, he (meet) his brother,
- (ii) The train (leave) at 7 pm.
- (iii) Tomorrow afternoon he (write) the essay.
- (iv) He (work) six hours by 5 pm tomorrow.
- (v) The river (swell) when it rain.

### **Modal Verbs**

**Modals:** Will, would, shall, should, can, could, may, might, need, dare, must, ought to and used to

There are some modal – like expressions such as **have to, had to, be able to, be about to** which are used before ordinary verbs and express meanings such as permission, possibility, ability, certainty, necessity etc.

**Features:** Modals are followed by the root form of a verb. They have no ‘s’ in the third person singular. They have no –ing and –ed forms as well. Let's see how they are used.

### **Polite Requests and Offers**

Modals in polite requests and after ( can, would, could, shall, ....etc.)

Polite requests: It is very important in all kinds of interactions such as:

- Helping a blind person cross the road
- Asking for direction
- Booking an air ticket
- Taking /giving an assignment
- Getting something to eat

Read these dialogues.

- a. Can you lend me your scooter?
- b. Yes, I am not using at today.

**Student:** Could I tomorrow your Best seller books?

**Teacher:** Certainly, But it is for very advanced learners.

A. Could you open the door?

B. I am **afraid**, it's locked. Shall I get the keys?

A. May I ask a question, please ?

B. By all means.

Just adding please is not enough. It sounds more like an order. We should use appropriate modals, **Note:** **Can** is informal, **could** is more formal and polite. We too use **will, would** to make requests.

**Exercise –01: Make requests to suit each of the situations mentioned below.**

- a. You need some money. Ask your friend to lend you. ( Can)

- b. You want to ascertain the time of departure of the Delhi-bound train. Ask the clerk at the information counter. (can / may)
- c. You need to meet your boss. (may)
- d. You want to find out the house of your cousin.
- e. You want to ask for a newspaper which your fellow passenger is reading.

**Exercise-02: We know that can / can't are used to describe abilities and possibilities. Describe what you can / can't do with the following.**

- a. Climbing trees
- b. Swimming
- c. Using automatic lift
- d. Preparing tea for the Guests
- e. Driving a car.

**Can /Could/Might** are used to describe possibilities.

Say, if the object is laptop, students. I can use laptop to access net.

**Use the following objects to construct sentences with can/could the describe possibilities.**

- a. An electric tester.
- b. Digging the soil for plantation
- c. A screwdriver
- d. An oven
- e. A lump of clay

'Could is sometimes used as the past equivalent of **can** when the intended meaning is **be able to**.

*Those days we could not get gas connection easily.*

**Exercise -03: Use must, have to, mustn't/cant to express obligation or prohibition in stating rules of the following games.**

- (i) Golf
- (ii) Hand ball,
- (iii) One day Cricket
- (iv) Lawn – Tennis
- (v) Ice- skating

Modals give flexibility to our expression . May I have a glass of water? is a not simply a request expressed but also it shows our attitude to the person we are requesting. 'Can I have a glass of water?' indicates a different attitude towards the listener or the person requested.

**Seeking permission**

*Can I speak to Ramesh sir?*

*You can park your car here.*

*'The boys can go and play', said the principal .*

**Theoretical possibility**

*By following certain methods, English can be learnt in a few months.*

**Could** is also used for indicating possibility. **Can** indicating possibility is the theoretical and vague while **could** speaks more of how a thing in reality can be.

Compare the sentences.

- A) *The road can be blocked.*
- B) *The road could be blocked.*

In (a) the speaker is speculating about the possibility of the road being blocked.  
In (b) the speaker is expressing the possible situation of the road being blocked now.

### Negatives with Can and Could

*My mother can't speak English.* ( does not have the ability to)

*You can't leave the class room.* ( no permission)

'Cannot be ' is also used to express a strong disbelief.

*You have got a job in Kuwait . 'Oh, No, It can't be'.*

May, Might

**May** like **can** can be used for asking permission or giving permission but is used only on formal occasions in written English

' May I use the toilet here ? 'You may' (permission).

*The students strike has intensified. The examination may be postponed . ( permission) if the condition continues....you may not take my car (you are not permitted to).*

**May** in also used to express a personal wish of the speaker.

*May your dreams come true.*

**Might** is a past form of may expressing possibility or permission in the past, mostly restricted to indicate 'speech.

*The newspaper reported that there might not be water supply on next Sunday.*

**Might** is also used for making a request and is more polite than 'may'.

**Must** is used to give strong advice or an order to oneself or to others.

*You must stop drinking/smoking. It is killing you.*

*You mustn't use mobile phones during lessons.*

### Exercise-04: Using must make rules and recommendation in the following situations.

- Reading rooms of a library
- In a museum
- In train or bus while travelling

**Have to** is more natural than **must**. The difference is that in the former, the rules are fixed but 'must' is likely to be used when the rules are imposed by the speaker.

**Shall, will** both act as auxiliaries and **modals**. In the first person, **will** is the modal and in the second and third persons **shall** is the modal.

*I will come to your birthday party.* (I have made up my mind).

*I shall write to you next week.* (Here **shall** expresses a future action)

*Thou shall not steal.* ( Speakers order, moral compulsion).

*I shall take voluntary retirement.* ( some thing is certain to happen)



## Should, Would

**Should** – something is the case and there no reason to doubt it.

*I should be happy to spend this summer with you.*

*While offering to do something should I cancel the meeting?*

**Would** is used for talking about on action that happened regularly in the past and which no longer happens. It is used for talking about a future in the past.

All kinds of modals express possibility, obligation, necessity.

## Modals to Expressing Logical Necessity or Possibility

*She must be your mother or sister –( She looks like you)*

*There must have been a storm last night. There are trees lying on the ground)*

Ask for evidence in the led to your conclusion in the following situations.

Sentence	Evidence
1. You must be ill	You look sick / feverish
2. The house must have been burgled in the night	-----
3. The woman must be very rich	-----
4. That boy must be in love	-----
5. The lesson must be boring	-----

**Exercise-01: Fill in the blanks with modals of instruction or warnings. ( must, have to, should, ought to, dare etc).**

1. You ----- finish the food, now.
2. You----- turn off the computer after using it.
3. The rich ----- help the poor.
4. You ----- cut your hair short in the army.
5. How ----- you tell a lie to me ?

## Exercise 02: Choose the correct Modals

1. ----- I please speak to Javed ( can / should)
2. I ----- (would / could ) have loved to come and visit you.
3. I ----- ( will /shall ) carry the box into the house.
4. I don't think I----- ( shall /can ) be able to climb the mountain.
5. I was afraid that if I asked him again, he----- ( can, may, might) refuse.

## Exercise-03: Fill in the blanks. Choose the correct alternative.

1. Look at the dark clouds, I ----- rain tonight. ( can/may)
2. I ----- leave now; it is getting late. ( have to /must)
3. ----- you mind opening the windows? It is too hot here. (should/would)
4. Simi has failed in the examination. She ---- have worked harder. ( would/ should)
5. The coat doesn't suit you; you ----- ( should/ would) buy another.

**Exercise-04: How would you respond to the following situations? Use Modals to frame your questions.**

1. You want your sister to switch off the light.
2. Asking your mother's permission to see a movie.
3. You want a stranger to tell you the way to the metro
4. You are offering a cup of tea to a friend
5. You are offering a seat to an old lady in a bus.

**Exercise-05: Complete the sentences with the following modals.**

(must, may, could, will, would, might)

1. ----- I sit down, madam?
2. He----- be thirty next month.
3. He said he -----come next month.
4. I ----- climb that tree if I tried.
5. He hasn't worked at all hard but his luck is such that he ----- pass.