

CHAPTER - 4**Auxiliaries**

Read the passage and underline the verbs in it :

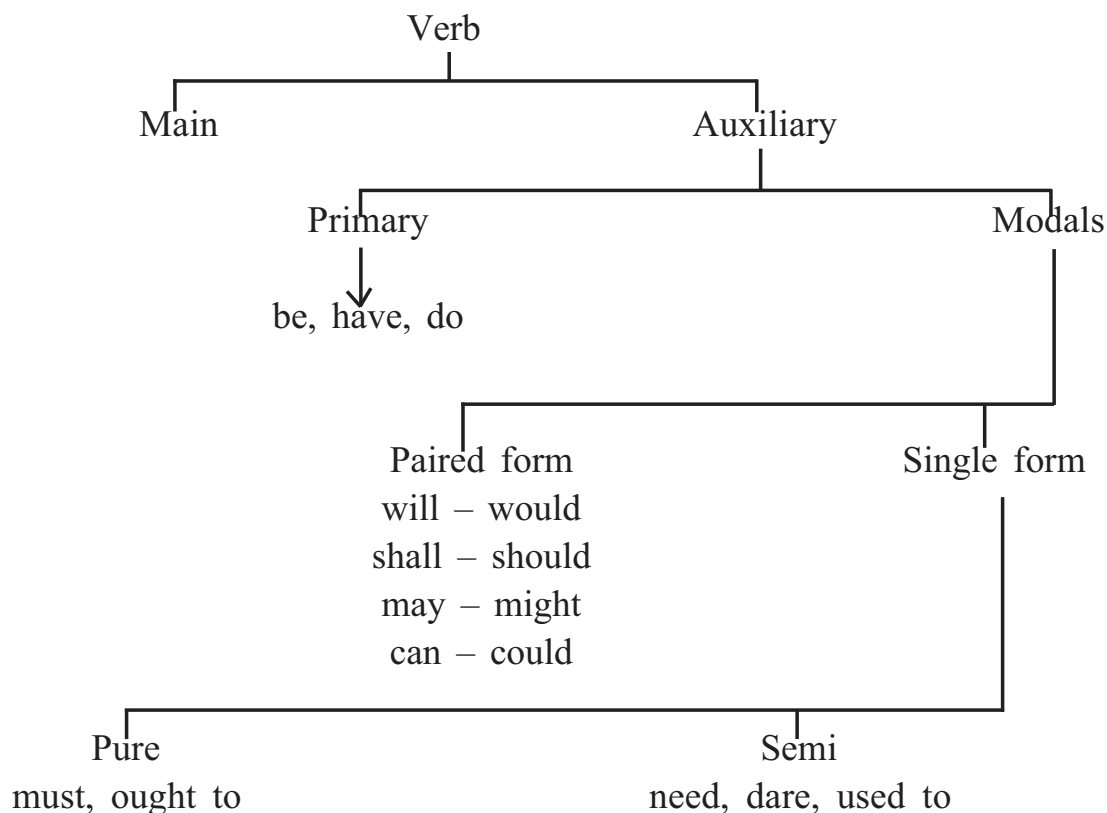
Shekhar and Kabir have known each other from the very childhood. Kabir said to Shekhar “Do you know Ajay ? Have you ever talked to him ? He is a very good singer”. Shekhar replied, “I have seen him at two or three music programmes. He has a very good voice. He did his graduation in Fine Arts and Music.” Oneday they invited Ajay and said, “We are very glad to have your company. We are going on a picnic tomorrow. You may join us.” Ajay replied, “I should take permission from my father and will then inform you. Remember you ought to respect your parents’ views. By the by, can anyone of you sing ? One must develop some hobby for a welcome change in life.”

Look at the first sentence. It has two verbs such as **have** and **known**. The first one is called **auxiliary** and the second one the **main verb**. Similarly you can know the main verbs and auxiliaries in other sentences. Study the difference between the auxiliaries in the above passage :

Have in (have known, have talked, have seen), **do** in (know), **are** in (are going) are auxiliaries indicating the tense and time of the verb and the other category (**may, should, will, ought to, can, must**) indicates possibility, desirability, intention, ability, obligation or compulsion. The first ones are called Primary Auxiliaries and the second, Modal Auxiliaries.

An auxiliary verb always comes before the main verb to indicate its tense or modalities of expression like expression of ability, permission, compulsion, obligation, threat, desirability, etc. There are two kinds of auxiliaries : **Primary** and **Modal Auxiliary**.

Look at the diagram :



Give a second reading to the above passage, you come across the verbs like ‘are’, ‘did’, ‘has’ which are the forms of **be**, **do** and **have** respectively, playing different roles.

- (i) Find out the sentences where they are main verbs.
- (ii) Find out the sentences where they are auxiliaries.

Notice that **be**, **do**, **have** can be the main verb or auxiliaries. When they are used as the only verb in the sentence, they function as main verbs. But when they go with another verb, they become auxiliaries.

Use of **be**, **have** and **do** :

A **be** verb as an auxiliary, makes two types of sentences : one with progressive main verb and the other in the passive form of the main verb. For example.

am / is / are / was / were	<u>going</u> there.	am / is / are was / were	<u>invited</u> to the party
-------------------------------	---------------------	-----------------------------	--------------------------------

Use correct nouns or pronouns to make meaningful sentences from each table. In each of these sentences the **be** verb is an auxiliary. When the **be** verb becomes a main verb, it introduces more information about the subject of the sentence, such as its identity, nature, qualities, or position. For example,

She is [Sheela/intelligent/pretty/the monitor/in this room.]

A **have** verb as an auxiliary makes the perfect tense of the main verb in order to show that the action suggested by the main verb has been complete. For example,

have / has / had	<u>done</u> the homework.
-------------------------	---------------------------

Make sentences using nouns or pronouns. The sentences mean that the action of doing the homework has been finished. In these sentences, the have verb is an auxiliary. When a **have** verb becomes a **main verb**, it means that the subject of the sentence owns or experiences something. For example,

She **has** [a bicycle / a brother / a party today.]

A **do** verb as an auxiliary turns a sentence into a negative or an interrogative sentence. For example,

don't / doesn't / didn't	<u>write</u> long answers.	do / does / did	I / you / he / she / the girl / etc.	<u>write</u> long answers ?
-------------------------------------	-------------------------------	----------------------------	--	--------------------------------

Frame sentences using suitable nouns or pronouns. The sentences mean that the action of writing long answers has been denied or questioned. In these sentences, the **do** verb is an auxiliary. When a **do verb** becomes a main verb, it means that the subject of the sentence performs an activity or task. For example,

You do not **do** your homework regularly, do you ?

Activity 1 :

(A) Fill in the blanks with the proper verbs chosen from those given in brackets and rewrite the paragraph :

Nilu _____ (was / is) my classmate. She / He lives near our house on the same road. A few days ago they _____ (have / had) a big garden in front of their house. But now they _____ (have built / built) an office room in that garden. They _____ (lost / have lost) their beautiful garden. Nilu's father _____ (is / has) a lawyer. He _____ (isn't / doesn't) go to the office at ten o'clock everyday. _____ (Do / Does) your father go to work at a fixed time everyday ?

(B) Underline the main verbs and circle the auxiliary verbs in the passage you have just written.

We have studied Primary Auxiliaries. The next group of auxiliaries is called **Modal Auxiliaries**. Let's study them in more detail.

1. Modal Auxiliaries do not usually act as main verbs, nor do they change with the number or person of the subject noun or pronoun.
2. They act as auxiliary verbs.
3. They have single forms for all subjects. They do not change even for a subject like he / she / it. Nor do they change for past time.
4. Two modals cannot go together in a simple sentence.
5. They have no non-finite forms as primary auxiliaries have (for example, **to be, being, been**, etc.) They are always finite and come before all other verbs in a simple sentence.
6. All the modals are followed by the bare infinitive (base) form of the verb.

We must remember that **ought to** and **used to** are also modal auxiliaries. Modals are primarily used to express meanings such as necessity, obligation,

advice, permission, certainty, possibility, etc. They do not usually have a time restriction. They can refer to the present or the future in the same form. In some situations, **should**, **would**, **might** and **could** act as the past form of **shall**, **will**, **may** and **can** respectively. **Used to** refers to a past habitual action or state. Now, we shall see how modals express different meanings.

Shall / Will :

The modal **shall** is used with I or we to express plain future, permission, promise, order, offer, etc. When **shall** takes a subject other than I/We, it means a threat or compulsion. For example,

We **shall** be back in an hour's time. **Shall** I go home now ?

I **shall** take you out on Monday. You **shall** not use my bicycle again.

Shall I give you a cup of tea ? You **shall** write this answer before you go.

In the negative sentence **shall not** is usually spoken as **shan't**.

The modal **will** is usually used to express the meaning of plain future, willingness, request, prediction, etc. For example,

Bakul **will** be fourteen next week.

He **will** come in time.

Will you do me a favour ?

When 'will' is used in case of the first person I/we, it means a certainty or promise :

I **will** help you as far as I can.

In the negative sentence **will not** is usually spoken as **won't**.

Activity 2 :

Fill in the blanks with **shall / will / shan't / won't**.

Bakul wants to go to Nandankanan. He wants to persuade his father to take him there during the summer vacation.

Bakul : Daddy, _____ i _____ we go to Nandankanan during the summer vacation ?

Father : It is a good idea. But I think it _____ ii _____ be better if we go there in winter.

- Bakul : But in winter the place gets crowded. We _____ iii _____ have to queue for hours to go on the boat ride. We _____ iv _____ get time to see everything.
- Father : Yes, but the weather _____ v _____ be so good in summer. The animals _____ vi _____ stay in their caves all the time.
- Bakul : So, what _____ vii _____ we do ? _____ viii _____ we go there in December ?
- Father : No, let's go there during the Puja vacation. It _____ ix _____ be so crowded then. I am sure, the weather _____ x _____ be better.

Should / Ought to :

The modal auxiliary **should** is generally used to give advice or to express obligation. **Ought to** is almost similar to **should** in meaning and is used in its place. But **ought to** is a stronger expression and it is used when there is a moral obligation or when the obligation comes from outside. For example,

I **ought to** get more exercise. (I am physically unfit. My doctor advised me to do so.)

They **ought to** ban smoking in public places.

You should / **ought to** wash your hands before you eat.

Would / Used to :

The modal **would** is usually used to express request, invitation, probability, or past habit. For example,

Would you do me a favour ? **Would** you like a cup of tea ?

He **would** be at home now.

When I was a child, I **would** (=used to) spend hours playing with my toys.

The modal **used to** also expresses a past habit and it does not have an equivalent for the present habit. We cannot use **used to** with an expression of a definite period of time. For example,

I used to go to school in my village when I was a child. But

I went to school in my village for five years.

Activity 3 :

Write the following sentences using I (think / don't think).... should and a suitable expression from the box. One has been done for you.

Go to the doctor	go home now	go to university	get married
Phone them now	have a holiday	go to work today	sell it.

It is late. I think we should .
go home now

It's very late. I don't think you
should go to work today.

Your bicycle is very old.

They need a change.

He doesn't look well.

You are not very well.

She's very intelligent.

They are too young.

Activity 4 :

Choose the correct form.

'Do you like / Would you like a banana ?'

'No, thank you.'

'Do you like / Would you like bananas ?'

'Yes, I love them.'

'What do you like / would you like to drink ?'

'Water, please.'

'I like / I'd like ice-cream but I don't eat it very often.'

'I'm tired. I like / I'd like to go to sleep.'

'Do you like / Would you like something to eat ?' 'No, thanks. I'm not hungry.'

Activity 5 :

Complete the following sentences using **shall / should / will / would** + the words given in brackets.

A. Lata : Jatin has stomach ache. He is in hospital.

Sumit : Really ? (he / be) in hospital for long ?

Lata : No, he (not be) there very long. Two days perhaps. The doctor has given him medicine.

Sumit : How long (he / have) those medicines ?

Lata : I don't know. May be he (have) to take them for three days.

Sumit : I hope he (be) all right soon. How (we / play) the football match without him ?

B. My brother is lying awake on the bed. His books and notebooks are on the table. I want to ask him if I can switch off the lights. _____ I turn the light off ?

Father has come back from the fields. He says, "I'm thirsty." What do I say ? "_____ I fetch you a glass of water ?"

Mother says, "I'm not feeling very well." What do I say ? "_____ the doctor ?"

Mother says she _____ all right if she lies in bed for a few minutes. I offer to make the bed for her. _____ for you ?

Activity 6 :

Make 5 predictions about the year 2020 using **will** / **won't**.

Activity 7 :

Complete the following offers / invitations using **would you like** _____ ? / **Would you like to** _____ ? / **Would you like me to** _____ ?

I've just made some tea. _____ some ?

You haven't got an umbrella, have you ? _____ borrow mine ?

There is a teacher of English living on the first floor. _____ know her ?

We're going to a party tomorrow night. _____ come ?

You don't have enough money and you want to buy an interesting book. _____ lend me some money ?

Can / Could :

As a modal auxiliary, **can** usually means one's ability to do something. It also suggests that something is possible. Sometimes you can use it when you want to give or seek permission for something. For example,

He can run like a deer. The leopard can be hiding in the bush.

You **can** come with me tomorrow. **Can** I use your bicycle ?

Could usually means past ability. It is also used when you want to make a polite request. For example.

He could write poems when he was only ten. Could I come in, sir ?

May / might :

In order to give or seek permission **may** is used. It also means factual possibility or expression of your wish. For example,

You **may** come in now.

May I come in, sir ?

Mother **may** be in the kitchen.

May God bless you.

Might suggests a very **remote possibility**. It may also mean a **past purpose**. For example,

What you say **might** be true.

He died that others **might** live.

Activity 8 :

Mr Das is 70. There are a lot of things he cannot do now. He is talking about the things he used to / was able to do. Complete the sentences with **could** or **couldn't**.

My eyes aren't very good now. Five years ago I _____ i _____ read the newspaper without wearing glasses. A few years ago I _____ ii _____ walk to the shops and was back in half an hour, but I prefer to get the rickshaw now. When I was a child, we _____ iii _____ watch television or a video in the evening. They didn't exist. We played football or kabadi in the evening but they _____ iv _____ keep us amused for hours. When I was younger, I _____ v _____ play the flute very well. I tried to play the flute again the other day. I _____ vi _____ play it only for a few minutes. I _____ vii _____ play it at a high pitch. My memory is not brilliant either. I _____ viii _____ remember my telephone number this morning.

Activity 9 :

A friend is asking you about your plans. You have some ideas but you aren't sure. Use **may** or **might** and complete the sentences.

(i) Where are you going for your holidays after the examination ?

I'm not sure yet, I _____ go to Puri.

(ii) Where are you going to celebrate your birthday ?

I don't know yet. I _____

(iii) When will you see your cousin again ?

I'm not sure. I _____

(iv) What are you going to buy when you go shopping ?

I haven't decided yet. I _____

(v) What are you doing at the weekend ?

I _____ . I _____

(vi) When are you going to phone Nilu ?

I _____ . I _____

(vii) What are you going to have for dinner tonight ?

I _____ . I _____

Activity 10 :

Fill in the blanks with **may (not)** / **might (not)** / **could (not)**. [Multiple answers are possible]

This is news at ten. All parts of the state will have rain tomorrow but the rain _____ reach the south coast till the evening. It will be quite warm. Temperature _____ reach 35°. Winds will increase from the east and _____ reach the speed of 80 kilometres per hour in the coastal region but they _____ be strong inland. And the forecast for the weekend. Well, it _____ be better really. Dry, warm and sunny for both Saturday and Sunday.

Activity 11 :

Fill in the blanks with **can** / **can't** / **will** / **won't** / **would** / **wouldn't**.

My brother _____ speak three languages. At the moment he's learning Bengali and by the end of this year he _____ be able to speak four languages. He hopes to get a job in Kolkata. I _____ like to speak two languages! I _____ speak only Odia and I _____ really speak English very well. I attend my English classes regularly but I haven't been able to make much progress. Do you think I _____ really be proficient in that language ?

Need / Dare :

These two modal auxiliaries are usually used only in negative and interrogative sentences for example,

— I'm not deaf. You **need** not speak so loudly.

— I **dare** not ask my teacher for leave. He may be angry.

— **Need** you leave the party so soon ?

- How **dare** you challenge the wrestler to a fight ?
- Sometimes, **need** and **dare** behave as main verbs as given in the following examples.
- You don't **need** to come on Sundays.
- I didn't **dare** to go near the snake.

But in these sentences **need** and **dare** should be considered as different verbs.

Must :

This modal expresses a strong obligation, necessity, compulsion or a logical conclusion. So it is used for recommendation, persuasion, prohibition or inference. For example,

- I **must** write the answer before I go.
- He **must** do his homework regularly.
- You **mustn't** shout in the class.
- What you say **cannot** be true; you **must** be joking.

In order to change **must** into negative, we can use **mustn't** or **needn't**. **Mustn't** means a negative compulsion whereas **needn't** means the absence of compulsion.

Activity 12 :

Complete the responses to the statements as given in the examples.

Examples :

- 1 You have slept all afternoon. You **can't** be tired.
- 1 He has a building in the village and another big one in the town. He **must** be rolling in money.
- 1 None of the candidates passed the examination. The questions **must have been** difficult.
- 1 There were a lot of mistakes in your writing. It **can't have been** revised.
- (i) I haven't heard from him for years.
He _____ forgotten you.
- (ii) Can I have something to eat ?
You _____ hungry. You have just had your dinner.

- (iii) I can't find the key to my bicycle.
You _____ it in the classroom.
- (iv) He has no idea what the book is about.
He _____ read it.
- (v) The last bus hasn't arrived yet.
It _____. There is no passenger at the bus-stop.

Activity 13 :

Complete the following sentences using **mustn't** / **needn't** + one of these verbs given in the box.

be buy hurry lose stick take tell wait wash

Your clothes aren't dirty. You _____ them.

I must hurry. I _____ late.

(Mother to child) You _____ your tongue out at people. It's not decent.

We have enough time. You _____ while driving.

You _____ for me, I will meet you at the school.

You _____ an umbrella. It's not going to rain.

This is a secret. You _____ it to anybody.

You _____ this book. You can borrow mine.

This book is very important. You _____ it.

Activity 14 :

You are at somebody's house for the first time. You are unknown to most of the members of the family. Politely ask them for what you want using **may** / **could** / **would you mind if**.

You'd like to switch on the TV.

You'd like to have a glass of water.

You'd like to have another piece of cake.

You'd like to have a piece of paper and a pen.

You'd like to borrow today's newspaper for a few minutes.

You like to add some salt to your curry and you can't reach the salt.

