***TRANSFORMATION OF SENTENCES***

1. As you know phrase can be expanded into a clause and a clause contracted into a phrase; that is, the form of a sentence can be changed without changing the meaning. In this chapter we shall show some other ways of changing the form of a sentence.

The conversion or transformation of sentences is an excellent exercise as it teaches

variety of expression in writing English.

***1. Sentences containing the Adverb “too”***

**2. We can change the form of a sentence containing the adverb “too”, as shown below:-**

**1. The news is too good to be true.**

**The news is so good that it cannot to be true.**

**2. These mangoes are too cheap to be good.**

**These mangoes are so cheap that they cannot be good.**

**3. He drove too fast for the police to catch.**

**He drove so fast that the police could not catch him. 1.Exercise**

**Rewrite the following sentences so as to get rid of the Adverb 'too':-**

**1. It is never too late to mend.**

**2. He is too proud to beg.**

**3. My heart is too full for words.**

**4. He was too late to hear the first speech.**

**5. He is too ignorant for a postman.**

**6. The boy was too old for whipping.**

7. This tree is too high for me to climb.

8. He speaks too fast to be understood.

9. He is far too stupid for such a difficult post.

10. She was sobbing too deeply to make any answer.

11. This fact is too evident to require proof.

12. The work is too much for any man to do single-handed.

13. That shirt is too small for me.

14. The bag was too heavy for me to carry.

***2. Interchange of the Degrees of Comparison***

3. As the following examples show, it is possible to change the Degree of Comparison of an Adjective or Adverb in a sentence, without changing the meaning of the sentence.

Positive. -- I am as strong as him.

Comparative. -- He is not stronger than me.

Positive. --This razor is not as sharp as that one.

Comparative. -- That razor is sharper than this one.

Positive. -- Few historians write as interestingly as Joshi.

Comparative. -- Joshi writes more interestingly than most historians.

Positive. -- No other metal is as useful as iron.

Comparative. -- Iron is more useful than any other metal.

Superlative. -- Iron is the most useful of all metals.

Superlative. -- India is the largest democracy in the world.

Comparative. -- India is larger than any other democracy in the world.

Positive. -- No other democracy in the world is as large as India.

Superlative. -- Mumbai is one of the richest cities in India.

Comparative. -- Mumbai is richer than most other cities in India.

Positive. -- Very few cities in India are as rich as Mumbai.

Superlative. -- Usha Kiran is not the tallest of all the buildings in the city.

Comparative. -- Usha Kiran is not taller than some other buildings in the city.

OR

Some other buildings in the city are perhaps tatter than Usha Kiran.

positive. -- Some other buildings in the city are at least as tall as Usha Kiran.

OR

Usha Kiran is perhaps not as tall as some other buildings in the city.

Superlative. -- Naomi is not one of the cleverest girls in the class.

Comparative. -- Some girls of the class are cleverer than Naomi,.

OR

Naomi is less clever than some other girls of the class.

Positive. -- Naomi is not so clever as some other girls of the class.

**Exercise -2**

Change the Degree of Comparison without changing the meaning:-

1. Abdul is as strong as his brother.

2. Akbar was one of the greatest kings.

3. Some boys are at least as industrious as Karim.

4. Mahabaleshwar is cooler than Mysore.

5. No other bowler in the eleven is so good as Rama.

6. Very few cities in India are as big as Chennai.

7. No other story-book is so popular as The Arabian Nights.

8. This pony is better trained than yours.

9. This Church is the biggest in Mumbai.

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10. This newspaper has a bigger circulation than any other morning paper.

11. Helen of Troy was more beautiful than any other woman.

12. The airplane flies faster than birds.

13. Hyderabad is one of the biggest of Indian cities.

14. Some beans are at least as nutritious as meat.

15. Samudra Gupta was one of the greatest of Indian kings.

16. Australia is the largest island in the world.

17. Very few Indo-Anglian novelists are as great as R.K. Narayan.

18. This is one of the hottest districts in India.

19. It is better to starve than beg.

20. He loves all his sons equally well.

***3. Interchange of Active and Passive Voice***

A sentence in the Active form can be changed into the Passive form, and vice versa :-

Active. Brutus stabbed Caesar.

Passive. -- Caesar was stabbed by Brutus.

Active. -- The people will make him President.

Passive. -- He will be made President by the people.

Active. -- Who taught you grammar?

Passive. -- By whom were you taught grammar?/Who were you taught grammar by? --

By whom was grammar taught to you ?

Active. -- The Governor gave him a reward.

Passive. -- He was given a reward by the Governor.

A reward was given him by the Governor.

Active. -- The Romans expected to conquer Carthage.

Passive. -- It was expected by the Romans that they would conquer Carthage.

Active. -- One should keep one's, promises.

Passive. -- Promises should be kept.

Active. -- I know her.

Passive. -- She is known to me.

Active. -- My captors were taking me to prison.

Passive. -- I was being taken to prison by my captors.

Active. -- His behaviour vexes me sometimes.

Passive. -- I am sometimes vexed at his behaviour.

Active. -- It is time to shut up the shop.

Passive. -- It is time for the shop to be shut up.

Active. -- The audience loudly cheered the Mayor's speech.

Passive. -- The Mayor's speech was loudly cheered.

Note:- Whenever it is evident who the agent (i.e., doer of the action) is, it is unnecessary to mention him in the passive form, and this omission gives a neater turn to the sentence.

Thus in the last example the agent is not mentioned in the passive form because only

those who heard the speech could have cheered it.

Passive. -- My pocket has been picked.

Active. -- Someone has picked my pocket.

Passive. -- Our army has been defeated.

Active. -- The enemy has defeated our army.

Passive. -- I shall be obliged to go.

Active. -- Circumstances will oblige me to go.

Note:- The Active Voice is used when the agent, or actor, is to be made prominent; the Passive, when the thing acted upon is to be made prominent. Hence

the Passive Voice may be used when the agent is unknown, or when we do not care to

name the agent ; as, "The ship was wrecked."

**Exercise 3.**

Change the following sentences into the Passive form. (Omit the agent where possible.)

1. Premchand wrote this novel.

2. We admire the brave.

3. I bought the baby a doll.

4. They know me.

5. He invited me to his house yesterday.

6. They enjoy bathing.

7. I opened the door.

8. 1 read the book long ago.

9. Pakistan expected to win the match.

10. The master appointed him monitor.

11. Who taught you such tricks as these?

12. Brutus accused Caesar of ambition.

13. The boy is climbing the cliff.

14. He taught me to read Persian.

15. One expects better behaviour from a college student.

16. They showed a video of The Titanic'.

17. You must endure what you cannot cure.

18. The King reviewed the troops in the maidan.

19. The curator of the museum showed us some ancient coins.

20. They have pulled down the old house.

21. The rules forbid passengers to cross the railway line.

22. He made his wife do the work.

23. Nature teaches beasts to know their friends.

24. All desire wealth and some acquire it.

25. Lincoln emancipated four million African slaves.

26. We expect good news.

27. They propose to build a dam for irrigation purposes.

28. I offered him a chair.

29. The French surrendered Quebec to the English in 1759.

30. He showed me the greatest respect.

31. Alas ! we shall hear his voice no more.

32. Shall I ever forget those happy days ?

33. Do you not understand my meaning ?

34. We must listen to his words.

**Exercise 4.**

Rewrite the following sentences in the Passive form. (Omit the agent where possible.)

1. Macbeth hoped to succeed Duncan.

2. Who taught you Urdu?

3. They found him guilty of murder.

4. The King immediately gave orders that he should be imprisoned.

5. Somebody has put out the light.

6. They laughed at his warnings and objected to all his proposals.

7. The Swiss regarded him as an impostor and called him a villain.

8. I have kept the money in the safe.

9. He pretended to be a baron.

10. His subordinates accused him of various offences.

11. I saw him opening the box.

12. He ordered the police to pursue the thief.

13. One cannot gather grapes from thistles.

14. You never hear of a happy millionaire.

15. The public will learn with astonishment that war is imminent.

16. Did you never hear that name?

17. The legend tells us how the castle received its name.

18. Do not insult the weak.

19. Why did he defraud you of your earnings.

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**Exercise 5.**

Change the following sentences into the Active form:-

1. The letter was written by the clerk.

2. Without effort nothing can be gamed.

3. “Shakuntala” was written by Kalidas.

4. I was struck by his singular appearance.

5. He was seen by my brother.

6. He was chosen leader.

7. Honey is made by bees.

8. The bird was killed by a cruel boy.

9. The steam-engine was invented by Watt.

10. The mouse was kilted by the cat.

11. The boy was praised by the teacher.

12. The Exhibition was opened by the Prime Minister.

13. By whom was this jug broken?

14. 1 was offered a chair.

15. We shall be blamed by everyone.

16. He will be gladdened by the sight.

17. The telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell.

18. My watch has been stolen.

19. A king may be looked at by a cat.

20. The telegraph wires have been cut.

21. Harsh sentences were pronounced on the offenders.

22. This question will be discussed at the meeting tomorrow.

23. Why should I be suspected by you?

24. Stones should not be thrown by those who live in glass houses.

25. He will be greatly surprised if he is chosen.

26. The ship was set on fire and abandoned by the crew.

27. He was arrested on a charge of theft, but for lack of evidence he was released.

***4. Interchange of Affirmative and Negative Sentences***

75. Study the following examples.

1. Brutus loved Caesar.

Brutus was not without love for Caesar.

2. I was doubtful whether it was you.

I was not sure that it was you.

3. Old fools surpass all other fools in folly.

There's no fool like an old fool.

4. He is greater than me.

I am not so great as him.

5. Alfred was the best king that ever reigned in England.

No other king as good as Alfred ever reigned in England.

**Exercise .6**

Express the meaning of the following sentences in negative form:-

1. He was more rapacious than a griffin.

2. He was as rapacious as a griffin.

3. Akbar was the greatest of the Great Moghuls.

4. He was greater than Aurangzeb.

5. The rose by any other name would smell as sweet.

6. As soon as he came, he made objections.

7. These fishing nets are all the wealth I own.

8. I always love my country.

9. Everest is the highest mountain in the world.

10. He is sometimes foolish.

11. He failed to notice me when he came in.

12. Everybody will admit that he did his best.

13. Only a millionaire can afford such extravagance.

14. Every man makes mistakes sometimes.

15. I care very little what he says about me.

16. As soon as he saw me he came up and spoke to me.

17. He must have seen the Tajmahal when he went to Agra.

**Exercise 7.**

Convert the following Negatives into Affirmatives:-

1. Nobody was absent.

2. He did not live many years in India.

3. No one could deny that she was pretty.

4. God will not forget the cry of the humble.

5. I am not a little tired'.

6. There was no one present who did not cheer.

7. I never in my life laid a plan and failed to carry it out.

8. Not many men would be cruel and unjust to a cripple. .

9. No man could have done better.

10. The two brothers are not unlike each other.

11. He has promised never to touch wine again.

12. We did not find the road very bad.

13. There is no smoke without fire.

14. It is not likely that he will ever see his home again.

***5. Interchange of Interrogative and Assertive Sentences***. Study the following examples;-

1. What though we happen to be late?

It does not matter much though we happen to be late.

2. Why waste time in reading trash?

It is extremely foolish to waste time in reading trash.

3. Were we sent into the world simply to make money?

We were not sent into the world simply to make money.

4. How can man die better than facing fearful odds?

Man cannot die better than facing fearful odds.

5. When can their glory fade?

Their glory can never fade.

6. Was he not a villain to do such a deed?

He was a villain to do such a deed.

**Exercise 66.**

Transform the following sentences Into Assertive sentence:-

1. Who can touch pitch without being defiled?

2. Can any man by taking thought add a cubit to his stature?

3. What though the field be lost?

4. Is that the way a gentleman should behave?

5. Who does not know the owl?

6. Shall I ever forget those happy days?

7. Who is so wicked as to amuse himself with the infirmities of extreme old age?

8. Why waste time in this fruitless occupation?

9. Is this the kind of dress to wear in school?

10. Can you gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles?

**Exercise 67.**

Express the meaning of the following Assertions Questions:-

1. No one can be expected to submit for ever to injustice.

2. There is nothing better than a busy life.

3. Nowhere in the world will you find a fairer building than the Taj Mahal.

4. It is useless to offer bread to a man who is dying of thirst.

5. We could have done nothing without your help.

6. That was not an example to be followed.

***6. Interchange of Exclamatory and Assertive Sentences***

77. Study the following examples:-

1. How sweet the moonlight sleeps upon this bank!

The moonlight very sweetly sleeps upon this bank.

2. If only I were young again!

I wish I were young again.

3. Alas that youth should pass away!

It is sad to think that youth should pass away.

4. How beautiful is night!

Night is very beautiful.

5. To think of our meeting here!

[Or] That we should meet here !

It is strange that we should meet here.

**Exercise 68.**

Transform the following Exclamatory sentences into Assertions:-

1. What would I not give to see you happy!

2. Ah, what a sight was there!

3. What a piece of work is man!

4. What might be done, if men were wise!

5. What a wonderful creature an elephant is!

6. How awkwardly he manages his sword!

7. O that we two were infants playing.

8. If only I had the wings of a dove!

9. What a large nose!

10. If only I had a good horse!

11. If only I were safe at home!

12. O what a fall was there my countrymen!

13. What a delicious meal!

14. What sweet delight a quiet life affords!

15. How well fitted the camel is for the work he has to do!

16. How cold you are!

17. What a beautiful scene this is!

18. What a delicious flavour these mangoes have!

19. Shame on you to use a poor cripple so!

20. If only I knew more people!

21. How you have grown!

22. If only I had come one hour earlier!

**Exercise 8.**

Transform the following into Exclamatory sentences:-

1. It is a horrible night.

2. It was extremely base of him to desert you in your time of need.

3. It is hard to believe that he did such a deed.

4. I wish I had met you ten years ago.

5. It is very stupid of me to forget your name.

6. He leads a most unhappy life.

7. Interchange of one Part of Speech for another

78. Study the following examples:-

1. That kind of joke does not amuse me.

That kind of joke does not give me any amusement.

2. It costs twelve rupees.

The cost is twelve rupees.

3. He has disgraced his family.

He is a disgrace to his family.

4. He fought bravely.

He put up a brave fight.

5. The treaty of Salbai should be remembered as one of the landmarks in the history of

India.

The treaty of Salbai is worthy of remembrance as one of the landmarks in the history of

India.

6. I cannot consent to your going.

I cannot give my consent to your going.

7. He gave a curt reply.

He replied curtly.

8. He showed generosity even to his enemies.

He was generous even to his enemies.

9. There is a slight difference between the two shades.

The two shades are slightly different.

10. The Act made the negro slaves free.

The Act gave freedom to the negro slaves.

11. I see him every day.

I see him daily.

12. He examined the document carefully.

He examined the document with care.

13. We passed an anxious hour.

We passed an hour anxiously.

14. Few historians have written in a more interesting manner than Gibbon.

Few historians have written more interestingly than Gibbon.

15. He presumptuously ignored my advice.

He presumed to ignore my advice.

**Exercise 10.**

(a) In the following sentences replace the Nouns it italics by Verbs :-

1. He rejected all our proposals.

2. Steel gains strength from the addition of nickel.

3. He made an agreement to supply me with firewood.

4. His purpose is not clear from his letter.

5. You cannot gain admission without a ticket.

6. He has no intention of leaving the city.

7. I have a disinclination for work to-day.

8. He made a success of all his undertakings.

9. These mangoes have a sweet smell but a sour taste.

(b) Rewrite the following sentences so as to replace the Adverbs in italics by Verbs:-

1. The defenders successfully repelled every attack on the city.

2. This scene is surpassingly beautiful.

3. He is admittedly the greatest general of the country.

4. They welcomed the good news most joyfully.

(c) Rewrite the following sentences so as to replace the Verbs and Adjectives in italics by

corresponding Nouns:-

1. Though the ant is small it is as intelligent as the elephant.

2. He said he regretted that he had acted so hastily.

3. He was so active in his old age that everybody admired him.

4. Before I pay you what is due you must sign this receipt-

5. The best way to healthy is to be temperatre in all things.

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(d) Rewrite the following sentences, replacing Nouns and Adverbs in italics by

Adjectives of similar meaning:-

1. In all probability the day will be fine.

2. The rats gave us a great deal of trouble.

3. He was dismissed for negligence rather than incompetence.

4. He was admittedly clever, but he evidently lacked industry.

5. The merchant had .great success in all his dealings, and was naturally esteemed by his

fellow citizens.

(e) Rewrite the following sentences replacing Nouns and Adjectives in italics by Adverbs

of similar meaning:-

1. Her dress was poor and mean.

2. He broke the rules without any intention of doing so, but it does not follow that his

punishment was wrong.

3. His mistake was evidcnt, but his sincerity was also obvious.

4. By a careful analysis of these substances you will see that they differ in essence.