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*Learning Language: English*

## The verbal group A1

## Forward

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# The verbal group – A1 level

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## The verbal group

### Types of verbs

#### 'Need to'

**Need to** is a **state verb** that expresses **necessity** or **obligation**. This common expression may be used in formal and informal contexts, and is followed by the **infinitive**.

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| <p>➔ <b>Necessity</b></p>  | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A written request should be submitted when an employee <b>needs to</b> take a leave of absence.</li> <li>• They <b>needed to</b> think about the offer before making a final decision.</li> </ul> |
| <p>➔ <b>Obligation</b></p> | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You <b>need to</b> finish the report by next month.</li> <li>• The company <b>needs to</b> restructure in order to improve productivity.</li> </ul>   |

**Note:**

**Need to** expresses **obligation** in an **implicit** fashion. Used in this context, it has a similar meaning to the **modal verb must**.

Also note that **need to** may be combined with a **pronoun** by placing the pronoun between the **base form** and the **preposition to**.

**Example:**

- If you **need me to** clarify one of my points, feel free to ask.

#### 'Need to' – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite the following sentences as in the example:*

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>I'm very sorry, but I must cancel our appointment tomorrow.</p>      | <p>I'm very sorry, but I need to cancel our appointment.</p> |
| <p>Ms. Jones and I must reschedule the meeting.</p>                     |  |
| <p>Unfortunately, I must postpone the presentation until next week.</p> |  |
| <p>Sorry, but I must move the meeting forward to Wednesday.</p>         |  |

# The verbal group – A1 level

## Transitive and intransitive verbs

Verbs may also be classified as **transitive** or **intransitive**.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>▶ <b>Transitive verbs:</b><br/>Transitive verbs take <b>objects</b>.</p>   | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• She's <b>reading</b> an article.</li><li>• <b>Give</b> me some toast, please.</li><li>• I <b>love</b> spring and summer.</li></ul>  |
| <p>▶ <b>Intransitive verbs:</b><br/><b>Intransitive</b> verbs do <b>not</b> take <b>objects</b>. Common intransitive verbs include '<b>to smile</b>,' '<b>to walk</b>,' '<b>to come</b>,' '<b>to fall</b>,' '<b>to go</b>,' and '<b>to happen</b>.'</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Intransitive verbs may be modified by <b>prepositional phrases</b> that clarify their context or meaning.</p> | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We <b>are walking</b>.</li><li>• He always <b>smiles</b>.</li></ul> <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We are walking <b>down the street</b>.</li></ul> |
| <p>▶ Some verbs may be used both transitively and intransitively.</p>   | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The door <b>opened</b>.</li><li>• <b>Open</b> the window.</li></ul>   |

## Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – The right word

I love \_\_\_\_\_ along the beach on a beautiful day.

walking - walken - walked - to walking – walk

## Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Can you \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday?

The clock \_\_\_\_\_ eight thirty!

I \_\_\_\_\_ spring and summer.

You \_\_\_\_\_ in the bathroom?

work - spell - says - love

# The verbal group – A1 level

## Impersonal verbs

- ▶ **Impersonal verbs**, whose subject must always be 'it,' are usually used to describe the weather. Some examples are 'to rain,' 'to snow,' 'to hail,' and 'to drizzle.'

### Example:

- It **rained** all weekend.
- Sometimes it **snows** in April.

**Note:** Some **personal verbs** can be used as **impersonal verbs**. Such use changes the meanings of these verbs.

### Example:

- I'm **getting** colder.
- It's **getting** colder.

## Impersonal verbs – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

I have to go to my \_\_\_\_\_ class.

I prefer winter and \_\_\_\_\_. Don't take \_\_\_\_\_!

When is your \_\_\_\_\_?

gym - birthday - snow - hours

## Semi-auxiliaries

### 'Can': ability and likelihood

The auxiliary 'can' is used not only to express perception and the notion of knowledge, but also:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p>➔ <b>Ability</b><br/>'Can' may also be replaced with <b>to be able to</b>.</p> | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As he has big muscles, he <b>can</b> carry heavy bags.</li> <li>(As he has big muscles, he <b>is able to</b> carry heavy bags.)</li> </ul> |
| <p>➔ <b>Likelihood</b></p>  | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It <b>can</b> become really humid during the summer in the Amazon.</li> </ul>  |

### 'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – Grammar practice

Conjugate as in the example:

| I (to be able to)    | I can |
|----------------------|-------|
| You (to be able to)  |       |
| He (to be able to)   |       |
| She (to be able to)  |       |
| It (to be able to)   |       |
| We (to be able to)   |       |
| They (to be able to) |       |

### 'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – The right word

Pigs \_\_\_\_\_ fly!

can't - aren't - cant - may not - shouldn't

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Can': perception and knowledge

### A - Construction

- ▶ The modal auxiliary 'can' is conjugated **in the same way** for all persons. It **doesn't** take an **-s** in the 3rd person singular. 'Can' is followed by the **infinitive without 'to'**.

#### Example:

- He **can** see me.

### B - Use

The auxiliary 'can' has several meanings. It expresses:

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>▶ Involuntary <b>perceptions</b> and operations of the mind. It is sometimes used before the verbs: <b>to hear, to see, to feel, to understand...</b></p> | <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Don't speak so loud. She <b>can</b> hear you.</li> <li>• I <b>cannot (can't)</b> understand why you're nervous.</li> </ul> |
| <p>▶ Intellectual <b>ability</b> and <b>knowledge</b>. 'Can' may thus be replaced by <b>to know how to</b>.</p>  | <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>can</b> swim. = I <b>know how to</b> swim.</li> </ul>   |

## 'Can': perception and knowledge – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

\_\_\_\_\_ there are four of us, we can get a bigger room.

\_\_\_\_\_ you see the ocean from here?

We \_\_\_\_\_ leave until everyone is ready.

Will we be \_\_\_\_\_ to pay the rent?

can't - able - since – can

## 'Can': perception and knowledge – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Answer the question as in the example:*

| Do you speak Japanese? | No, I don't speak Japanese. |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Can you count?         |                             |
| Are you at home?       |                             |
| Is he with you?        |                             |



# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>➔ To give <b>advice</b>, the auxiliary '<b>should</b>' or '<b>ought to</b>' + an <b>infinitive</b> is used. '<b>Ought to</b>' suggests an external or <b>moral</b> constraint.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> '<b>Shouldn't</b>' is the usual form in <b>negations</b>.</p>         | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>You <b>should</b> go to the butcher's first.</li> <li>You <b>ought to</b> apologize to her!</li> </ul> <p><b>Example:</b> You <b>shouldn't</b> drive too fast!</p>  |
| <p>➔ '<b>Should</b>' or '<b>ought to</b>' + '<b>have</b>' + a <b>past participle</b> is used to express a <b>regret</b> or <b>reproach</b>.</p>   | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We <b>should have gone</b> to the mountains.</li> <li>They <b>ought to have invited</b> her.</li> </ul>   |
| <p>➔ <b>Should</b> can be used to express <b>obligation</b>. This usage is common in legal texts and official rules.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> In the above examples, <b>should</b> conveys <b>rules</b> and <b>commands</b> rather than <b>suggestions</b> or <b>advice</b>.</p> | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Payments <b>should</b> be made on time and in full.</li> <li>Employees <b>should</b> provide valid justification for absences.</li> <li>You <b>should</b> complete the report as soon as possible.</li> </ul> |

➔ Also note that the negative form of **should** is **should not** or **shouldn't**.

## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – Grammar practice

*Conjugate as in the example:*

| I should (to increase)  | I should increase |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| you should (to include) |                   |
| he should (to design)   |                   |
| we should (to contact)  |                   |
| I should (to think)     |                   |
| they should (to create) |                   |
| she should (to give)    |                   |

# The verbal group – A1 level

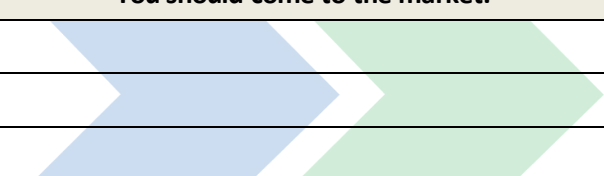
## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – The right word

You \_\_\_\_\_ brush your teeth twice every day.

shudder - might - would - should - ought - should've

## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite the following sentences as in the example:*

| Come to the market.     | You should come to the market.  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Buy some leeks.         |  |
| Eat your carrots.       |   |
| Taste this sponge cake. |   |



# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to'

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>➔ The auxiliary <b>can</b>, in the <b>infinitive form</b>, is <b>to be able to</b>.</p> | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It's great <b>to be able to</b> speak many languages.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>➔ The <b>future</b> of the auxiliary <b>can</b> is <b>will be able to</b>.</p>          | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Don't worry. I'll (will) <b>be able to</b> pick you up.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>➔ The <b>preterite</b> of the auxiliary <b>can</b> is <b>could</b></p>                  | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>He <b>could</b> be very kind sometimes.</li> <li>I <b>couldn't</b> hear anything because of the music.</li> </ul> |

## 'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite as in the example:*

| Is it sunny?                | Was it sunny? |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Is there a washing machine? |               |
| Are the beds big enough?    |               |
| Can you see the ocean?      |               |

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'May' - 'Might'

The helping auxiliaries **may** and **might** are used to express a **possibility**.

### A - Form

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>➔ One uses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>may/might + infinitive without to</b> when talking about the <b>present</b> or the <b>future</b>.</li> <li>• <b>may/might + be + -ing</b> when talking about the <b>present</b> or the <b>future</b>.</li> <li>• <b>may/might + have + past participle</b> when talking about the <b>past</b>.</li> </ul> |   |
| <p>➔ The <b>negative</b> is formed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>may + not might + not</b></li> </ul>  | <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That <b>may not</b> be true.</li> <li>• They <b>might not</b> know about this.</li> </ul>             |
| <p>➔ In the interrogative form, <b>to be likely to</b>, <b>is there a possibility</b> and <b>do you think</b> are used instead of <b>might</b> and <b>may</b>.</p>   | <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are they <b>likely to</b> be back soon?</li> <li>• Is there a <b>possibility</b> he'll go?</li> </ul> |

### B - Use

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>➔ <b>May</b> expresses a <b>possibility more certain</b> than <b>might</b>.</p>                         | <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ <b>Strong possibility</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She <b>may be</b> late because she has a lot to do.</li> <li>• Be quiet! He <b>may be</b> sleeping.</li> </ul> </li> <li>❖ <b>Large uncertainty</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I <b>might come</b> tonight, but I'm not sure.</li> <li>• I haven't got a towel. John <b>might have</b> taken several.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |
| <p>➔ <b>May</b> is used as well when asking for (and giving) <b>permission</b> with <b>politeness</b>.</p> | <p><u>Example:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>May</b> I borrow your pen?</li> </ul>  |

# The verbal group – A1 level

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p><b>Note:</b><br/><b>Might</b> is used often in the place of <b>may</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• in <b>everyday speech</b> (except that <b>might</b> expresses a doubt greater than <b>may</b>).</li> <li>• in <b>indirect style</b> when the sentence is in the past (to keep with the sequence of the tenses).</li> </ul> | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• He <b>said</b> he <b>might</b> come tomorrow.</li> </ul>  |
| <p>▶ <b>Might</b> is used as well for <b>criticisms</b> or <b>suggestions</b>.</p>   | <p><b>Example:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You <b>might</b> (as well) take your coat. It's cold outside.</li> <li>• You <b>might</b> have asked the technician. He knows a lot.</li> </ul> |

## 'May' - 'Might' - Exercise – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite as in the example:*

| Can I fax you the contact information? | May I fax you the contact information? |
|--|--|
| Can I have Customer Service?           |  |
| Can I order your products by phone?    |  |
| Can I email you the registration form? |  |

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Must' - 'Have to'

The auxiliaries **must** and **have to** express a **need** or an **obligation**.

### ➔ Construction of must

The auxiliary **must** is conjugated in the same way for all persons: it **does not** take an **-s** in the 3rd person singular.

**Must** is followed by the **infinitive without to**.

**Must** is only used in the **simple present**.

**Example:** You **must wash** your hands before eating.

**Note:** With **must**, questions and negations are formed without 'do.'

### **Example:**

- **Must** we **bring** sleeping bags?
- You **mustn't open** the door to anyone.

## 'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – Grammar practice

**Rewrite as in the example:**

| I (must / to need) cancel          | I must cancel |
|------------------------------------|---------------|
| You (must / to need) to reschedule |               |
| He (must / to need) come           |               |
| She (must / to need) be early      |               |
| It (must / to need) to be early    |               |
| We (must / to need) be free        |               |
| They (must / to need) to cancel    |               |

## 'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – The right word

Unfortunately, I \_\_\_\_\_cancel my meeting with your CEO.

must - need - have

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Had better' - 'Would rather'

'Had better' and 'would rather' precede **infinitives without 'to'** and may refer to the present or the future.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>A - 'Had better'</b><br><br>➔ 'Had better' ('-d better,' contracted) expresses a <b>firm suggestion</b> or an <b>order</b> .  | <b>Example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You <b>had better tell</b> her the bad news.</li><li>You'd <b>better accept</b> it for your career's sake.</li></ul>                                  |
| ➔ The <b>negative</b> of 'had better' is as follows:<br><br><b>had better + not + infinitive</b><br><br><b>Note:</b> 'Had' (or '-d') is often omitted, particularly in speech. | <b>Example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You'd <b>better not forget</b> my birthday.</li></ul><br><b>Example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>You <b>better not</b> shout.</li></ul> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>B - 'Would rather'</b><br><br>➔ 'Would rather' conveys <b>preference</b> . | <b>Example:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Would</b> you <b>rather</b> stay inside or go for a walk?</li><li>I'd <b>rather</b> go for a swim.</li></ul> |
| ➔ Its <b>negative</b> is 'would rather not.'                                  | <b>Example:</b> I'd rather not go.  |

## 'Had better' - 'Would rather' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Sit \_\_\_\_\_ then!

You'd \_\_\_\_\_ start this dialogue all over again. See you \_\_\_\_\_!

I forgot what's \_\_\_\_\_ Saturday!

tomorrow - down - before - better

## The verbal group – Solutions

### Types of verbs – Solution(s)

#### 'Need to' – Solution(s)

#### 'Need to' – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite the following sentences as in the example:*

|  |   |
|--|---|
| I'm very sorry, but I must cancel our appointment tomorrow.      | I'm very sorry, but I need to cancel our appointment.   |
| Ms. Jones and I must reschedule the meeting.                     | Ms Jones and I need to reschedule the meeting.<br>Ms. Jones and I need to reschedule the meeting.   |
| Unfortunately, I must postpone the presentation until next week. | Unfortunately, I need to postpone the presentation until next week.<br>Unfortunately I need to postpone the presentation until next week. |
| Sorry, but I must move the meeting forward to Wednesday.         | Sorry, but I need to move the meeting forward to Wednesday.   |

### Transitive and intransitive verbs – Solution(s)

#### Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – The right word

I love **walking** along the beach on a beautiful day.

#### Transitive and intransitive verbs – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Can you **spell** Thursday?

The clock **says** eight thirty!

I **love** spring and summer. You **work** in the bathroom?

.....



# The verbal group – A1 level

## Impersonal verbs – Solution(s)

### Impersonal verbs – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

I have to go to my **gym** class.  
I prefer winter and **snow**.  
Don't take **hours**!  
When is your **birthday**?

.....

## Semi-auxiliaries – Solution(s)

### 'Can': ability and likelihood – Solution(s)

### 'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – Grammar practice

*Conjugate as in the example:*

| I (to be able to)    | I can    |
|----------------------|----------|
| You (to be able to)  | You can  |
| He (to be able to)   | He can   |
| She (to be able to)  | She can  |
| It (to be able to)   | It can   |
| We (to be able to)   | We can   |
| They (to be able to) | They can |

### 'Can': ability and likelihood – Exercise – The right word

Pigs **can't** fly!

.....

### 'Can': perception and knowledge – Solution(s)

### 'Can': perception and knowledge – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

**Since** there are four of us, we can get a bigger room.  
**Can** you see the ocean from here?  
We **can't** leave until everyone is ready. Will we be **able** to pay the rent?

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Can': perception and knowledge – Exercise – Sentence practice

Answer the question as in the example:

| Do you speak Japanese? | No, I don't speak Japanese.  |
|------------------------|--|
| Can you count?         | No, I can't count.<br>No, I cannot count.<br>No, we can't count.<br>No, we cannot count.   |
| Are you at home?       | No, I'm not at home.<br>No, I am not at home.<br>No, we're not at home.<br>No, we aren't at home.<br>No, we are not at home.                         |
| Is he with you?        | No, he isn't with me.<br>No, he's not with me.<br>No, he isn't with us.<br>No, he's not with us.<br>No, he is not with me.<br>No, he is not with us. |

## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Solution(s)

### 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – Grammar practice

Conjugate as in the example:

| I should (to increase)  | I should increase  |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| You should (to include) | You should include |
| He should (to design)   | He should design   |
| We should (to contact)  | We should contact  |
| I should (to think)     | I should think     |
| They should (to create) | They should create |
| She should (to give)    | She should give    |

## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – The right word

You **should** brush your teeth twice every day.

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Should' and 'ought to': advice – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite the following sentences as in the example:*

| Come to the market.     | You should come to the market.     |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Buy some leeks.         | You should buy some leeks.         |
| Eat your carrots.       | You should eat your carrots.       |
| Taste this sponge cake. | You should taste this sponge cake. |

## 'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Solution(s)

## 'Can' - 'Could' - 'To be able to' – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite as in the example:*

| Is it sunny?                | Was it sunny?   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Is there a washing machine? | Was there a washing machine?                                |
| Are the beds big enough?    | Were the beds big enough?                                   |
| Can you see the ocean?      | Could you see the ocean?<br>Were you able to see the ocean? |

## 'May' - 'Might' – Solution(s)

## 'May' - 'Might' - Exercise – Exercise – Sentence practice

*Rewrite as in the example:*

| Can I fax you the contact information? | May I fax you the contact information? |
|--|--|
| Can I have Customer Service?           | May I have Customer Service?           |
| Can I order your products by phone?    | May I order your products by phone?    |
| Can I email you the registration form? | May I email you the registration form? |

# The verbal group – A1 level

## 'Must' - 'Have to' – Solution(s)

### 'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – Grammar practice

*Rewrite as in the example:*

| I (must / to need) cancel          | I must cancel          |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| You (must / to need) to reschedule | You need to reschedule |
| He (must / to need) come           | He must come           |
| She (must / to need) be early      | She must be early      |
| It (must / to need) to be early    | It needs to be early   |
| We (must / to need) be free        | We must be free        |
| They (must / to need) to cancel    | They need to cancel    |

## 'Must' - 'Have to' – Exercise – The right word

Unfortunately, I **must** cancel my meeting with your CEO.

.....

## 'Had better' - 'Would rather' – Solution(s)

### 'Had better' - 'Would rather' – Exercise – Fill in the blanks

Sit **down** then!

You'd **better** start this dialogue all over again.

See you **tomorrow** !

I forgot what's **before** Saturday!

.....

**ENGLISH**

**SPANISH**

**FRENCH**

**GERMAN**

**ITALIAN**

**DUTCH**

