

1) *Dare* as a defective verb has two forms which are the present and the past forms. It means 'to have the courage or impertinence to do something.' Its use is very restricted. In present-day English it is mainly found in questions beginning with *how*, which are actually exclamations, and in negative sentences.

e.g. How **dare** you **say** that!
How **dare** she **come** here!
How many years is it since we danced together? **I daren't think.**
He dared not look at her.

2) *Dare* as a regular verb has all the necessary forms including the verbals. It has the same meaning as the defective *dare*. Its use is also restricted. It is mainly found in negative sentences.

e.g. **He does not dare to come** here again.
She told me she **had** never **dared to ask** him about it.
No one **dared to live** in the house since.

3) Note the colloquial set phrase / *dare say*.

e.g. **I dare say I** looked a little confused.
My son is not in town, but **I dare say** he will be before long.

In Russian this phrase is usually rendered as *очень возможно, пожалуй, полагаю, осмелюсь сказать*.

***shouldn't* + Perfect Infinitive, *oughtn't to* + Perfect Infinitive and *needn't* + Perfect infinitive Compared**

§ 120. *Shouldn't* + *Perfect infinitive* and *oughtn't to* + *Perfect infinitive* show that an action has been carried out though it was undesirable; *needn't* + *Perfect infinitive* indicates that an action has been carried out though it was unnecessary.

e.g. You **shouldn't have come** (*because you are ill*).
You **oughtn't to have written** to them (*because your letter upset them*).
You **needn't have come** (*because the work is finished*).
You **needn't have written** to them (*because I sent them a telegram*).

Expressions of Absence of Necessity

§ 121. The main verbs expressing necessity are: *must*, *to have to*, *to be to*, *should* and *ought to*.

Yet care should be taken to remember that the verbs *must*, *to be to*, *should* and *ought to* in their negative forms do not express absence of necessity (see the use of these verbs above).

Absence of necessity is expressed by the negative forms of **to have to** and **need**.

In the present tense:

e.g. You **don't have to go** there.
You **needn't go** there.

The two verbs generally differ in that *needn't* + *infinitive* indicates that the speaker gives authority for the non-performance of some action, whereas *don't (doesn't) have* + *infinitive* is used when absence of necessity is based on external circumstances.

Cf. You **needn't** come here. (*I'll manage everything without your help.*)

You **don't have to come** to the Institute tomorrow. (*There will be no lectures tomorrow.*)

In the past tense (where the regular form of the verb *need* is found) the two verbs are similar in meaning. They both indicate that there was no necessity, and hence no action. But *to need* is not in common use.

e.g. You **did not have to go** there.
You **did not need to go** there.

Note. Care should be taken not to use *You needn't have gone there* as an expression of absence of necessity because it means that an action was carried out though it was unnecessary.

FORMS EXPRESSING UNREALITY

§ 122- As has been said above, owing to certain historical changes, we find a variety of forms expressing unreality in present-day English (see also "Verbs", § 73).

These forms are:

1) the plain stem of the verb for all persons (a survival of the old Subjunctive Mood),

e.g. Ivory insisted that he be present, in the most friendly fashion imaginable.

They proposed that he **borrow** the money from the bank.

2) were for all persons (also a survival of the old Subjunctive Mood),

e.g. I wish I **were** ten years younger.

3) the form of the Past Indefinite,

e.g. He looked as if he knew about it.

4) the form of the Past Perfect,

e.g. He looked as if he **had** seen a ghost.

5) **should** (for the first person, singular and plural) or would (for the other persons) + *infinitive*,

e.g. If I had a garden I **should grow** tulips in it.

If he had a garden he **would grow** tulips in it.

6) **should** (for the first person, singular and plural) or would (for the other persons) + *Perfect infinitive*,

e.g. If it hadn't rained I **should have gone** for a walk.

If it hadn't rained he **would have gone** for a walk.

7) **should** (for all persons) + *infinitive*,

e.g. I insist that he **should meet** us at the station.

8) **would** (for all persons) + *infinitive*,

e.g. I wish he **wouldn't interrupt** me.

9) **may (might)** + *infinitive*,

e.g. I'm telling you this so that you may write to your parents about it.

I told you **that** so that you **might** write to your parents about it.

10) **can (could)** + *infinitive*,

e.g. I'm telling you this so that you **can write** to your parents about it.

I told you that so that you **could write** to your parents about it.

11) were to (for all persons) 4- *infinitive*,

e.g. If he were **to** discover the truth he would never speak to us again.

§ 123. All these forms denoting unreality may be subdivided into two groups according to their meaning.

Some of them are used to represent an action as **hypothetical**, i.e. the speaker does not know whether the action will take place or not, the realization of the action is doubtful, questionable.

e.g. Most of them insisted that the proposal be discussed without delay.

They suggested that Meg **should** stay with them for another week.

Other forms express actions **contradicting reality**, i.e. actions which cannot be realized.

e.g. I wish I **had** seen the procession.

If I were a writer I **should write** detective stories.

§ 124. The forms described above can be classified in the following way:

1) Of all the forms expressing unreality only one may be found in the same syntactic structures as the Indicative Mood. The choice between the two forms is based on meaning (see also "Verbs", §§154-159).

This form is built up analytically, by means of the auxiliary verbs **should/would** + **infinitive**. Although *should* is generally used for the first person, singular and plural, and *would* for the other Persons, there is a strong tendency in present-day English to use *Would* for all persons. This fluctuation in the use of *should* and *Would* disappears in spoken English where the contracted form 'd + *infinitive* is used.

The form has two tenses: the present tense *should/would* + *infinitive* which is used with reference to the present or future (a), and the past tense *should/would* + *Perfect infinitive* which refers the action to the past (b).

e.g. a) I should be glad to see him (*if I had a chance*).

b) I should have been glad to see him (*if I had had a chance*).

The use of *should be glad* in (a) is opposed to the Indicative Mood in / *am glad to see him* or / *shall be glad to see him*. The use of *should have been glad* in (b) is opposed to the Indicative Mood in / *was glad to see him*.

Similarly, *He would go there with pleasure* (if it were possible) is opposed to *He will go there with pleasure*; *He would have gone there with pleasure* to *He went there with pleasure*.

This form may be called the Conditional Mood. It represents an action as contradicting reality. The action is unreal because it depends on an unreal condition; as the condition cannot be realized, the action that depends on it cannot be fulfilled either.

In accordance with its meaning the Conditional Mood is often used in the principal clause of a complex sentence of unreal condition.

e.g. If he were not ill he would come.

If he had not been ill he would have come.

2) The only forms of the old Subjunctive Mood that have survived in English are:

a) The form of the plain verb stem for all persons. It represents an action as hypothetical. It is used only in certain types of subordinate clauses (see "Verbs", §§ 129, 131, 140).

e.g. He proposed that the plan be adopted.

It is necessary that you say it in his presence.

This form has no tense distinctions. In its use it is interchangeable with *should* + *infinitive* in definite types of subordinate clauses and is mostly found in American English.

Traditionally this form is called the Subjunctive Mood.

b) The form *were* for all persons. It serves to show that an action contradicts reality and is also used in certain types of subordinate clauses (but not in the same types as the form of the plain verb stem) (see "Verbs", §§ 132, 133, 136, 144, 146).

e.g. If I were you I should not accept his offer.

I wish he were here.

The form *were* refers the action to the present or to the future. In some syntactic structures it is now often replaced by *was*.

3) As the formal difference between the Indicative Mood and the Subjunctive Mood has in many cases disappeared, the forms of the Past Indefinite (a) and the Past Perfect (b) came to express unreality in English.

a) The form of the Past Indefinite is used to express an action contradicting reality with reference to the present or future. This use of the Past Indefinite is found in certain types of subordinate clauses (see "Verbs", §§ 132, 133, 136, 144, 146).

e.g. If I knew it, I should tell you about it.

I wish I knew it.

Thus the Past Indefinite performs two different functions in English: its main function is to represent an action as a fact referring to the past; but it may also represent an action as contradicting reality with reference to the present or future.

Further in describing the use of the forms of unreality the form *were* will be included among the forms of the Past Indefinite, because they are used in the same constructions and with the same meaning. It should be mentioned that *were* with the first and third persons singular is often replaced by *was* in present-day English.

b) Parallel to the use of the form of the Past Indefinite, the form of the Past Perfect came to represent actions contradicting reality in the past. The Past Perfect is used in the same types of subordinate clauses as the Past Indefinite when it expresses unreality.

e.g. If I had known it, I should have told you about it.

I wish I had known it.

Thus actions contradicting reality are expressed in present-day English by means of tense shift. The Past Indefinite is used to express unreality in the present, the Past Perfect has the same function in the past.

4) Other means of expressing unreality in present-day English are combinations of modal verbs with an infinitive. They are mainly found in definite types of subordinate clauses (see "Verbs", §§ 129, 131, 132, 135, 138, 140, 143, 149).

e.g. He suggested that we **should join** them.

If he were to get the job he would go on with his studies.

It should be noted that the modal phrase *should* (for all persons) + *infinitive* is used in the same sentence patterns as the Subjunctive Mood. The two forms exist side by side.

e.g. I suggest that he **go (should go)** with us.

It is necessary that he **go (should go)** with us.

In British English the difference between the two forms is stylistic: *should* + *infinitive* is in common use and may be found in any style, whereas the use of the Subjunctive Mood is restricted to the language of official documents and to high prose. In American English the Subjunctive Mood is generally preferred.

§ 125. To sum up all the forms described above, it is possible to say that unreality is expressed in present-day English by the following means:

- a) by mood forms;
- b) by the tense shift;
- c) by modal phrases.

§ 126. All these means of expressing unreality may have the continuous (a) and passive (b) forms if the lexical meaning of the verb admits of that and when it is required by the situation.

e.g. a) If he **were not reading** now we'd turn on the radio.

If he were in Moscow they **would be showing** him the city.

He looked at me as if he were **wondering** what they had on their minds.

b) They proposed that the meeting **be adjourned (should be adjourned)**.

If he had been sent for at once he might have saved us a lot of trouble.

He wished he **had been told** about it.

§ 127. Before describing the use of the various forms of unreality it is necessary to understand the factors which determine their choice.

1) Sometimes the choice between the Indicative Mood and this or that particular form of unreality depends on the structure of the sentence, mainly on the type of the subordinate clause in which this form occurs, and in certain cases even on the lexical character of the predicate verb in the principal clause. This may be termed as **the structurally dependent** use of **forms** expressing unreality.

2) In other cases the choice is independent of the structure of the sentence and is determined by the attitude of the speaker towards the actions expressed in the sentence. This may be termed as the **independent** (or free) use of forms expressing **unreality**.

3) **In** a limited number of cases the use of forms expressing unreality has become a matter of tradition and is to be treated as set phrases, as other sentences cannot be built up on their patterns. This may be termed as **the traditional** use of **forms** expressing unreality.

The following will be a description of forms expressing unreality in accordance with this division.

Structurally Dependent Use of Forms Expressing Unreality

The Use of Forms Expressing Unreality in Object Clauses

§ 128. In object clauses the use of different forms of the predicate depends on the lexical character of the predicate verb in the principal clause.

As a rule, we find the Indicative Mood in object clauses after most verbs.

e.g. We know (that) he **is doing** very well in his studies.

They thought (that) he **had** given up his idea.

He said that he **would** soon be back.

As is well known, the rules of the sequence of tenses are to be observed here.

Note. Care should be taken to remember that in object clauses after expressions of regret, surprise, sometimes pleasure or displeasure the emotional *should* can be used alongside the Indicative Mood (see "Verbs", § 109, 2a).