

BASIC SENTENCES FOR COLLECTING FIELD DATA IN INDIAN LANGUAGES

These sentences are designed to elicit data to give a typological sketch of a language. One has to build on further on each of these sentences to get full paradigms of a verb or a noun. You might find some of these sentences funny or ungrammatical in English, however, when translated in the contact language and the target language they will appear all right.

SIMPLE

1. Ram is eating a mango.
2. Sita is eating a ripe mango.
3. Ram cut the mango.
4. The children cut the mango with a knife.
5. Rizwan cut his fingers while cutting the mango.
6. Ruth ate the mango in the bus.
7. Salma ate the mango in the morning.
8. The child ate up all the sweets.

NEGATIVES

1. I don't go to school.
2. We will not go to Jaipur tomorrow.
3. I did not go to school yesterday.
4. The child did not hit his/her sister.
5. Because they did not study they failed in the exams.
6. Neither my mother came nor my sister.
7. The old elephant did not die.

Note: check the scope of negation.

IMPERATIVES

1. Come in.
2. Don't come in.
3. Please sit down.
4. Sit/sit down.
5. Admission is prohibited.
6. Get lost!

CONDITIONAL AND COORDINATION

1. If you don't give me the sweets, I will cry.
2. If you will hit me I will cry.
3. If he had come earlier he would have seen the letter.
4. If he asks me I will certainly tell the whole story.
5. If he can come then he should.
6. Ram and Sita both went to watch the movie.
7. Children ate and drank cold water.
8. Mary is beautiful but ill natured.
9. Sohail will help but not Reshma.

INCLUSIVE/EXCLUSIVE

1. Yesterday we had gone to see the movie (-addressee)
2. Yesterday we had gone to see the movie (+addressee)
3. Let us go now (-addressee)
4. Let us go now (+addressee)
5. We got punishment, how bad! (-addressee)
6. We got punishment, how bad! (+addressee)

Note: check for the dual number also

INTERROGATIVES

1. What is your name?
2. Where do you stay?
3. How are you?
4. When are you going home?
5. Why are you going to Delhi?
6. Who is he/she?
7. How much did you get?
8. Have you eaten?
9. Shall I come tomorrow?
10. Did you see the papers today?
11. Will you be cooking today at home?
12. What do you think he was thinking?
13. Which one is your brother?

RELATIVIZATION, PARTICIPIALIZATION, ADJECTIVES

1. The boy who had fever died yesterday.
2. Call the boy who broke the glass.
3. Call the boy who broke the glass day before yesterday.
4. Throw away the broken branch.
5. The tail cut monkey was a nuisance.
6. The cap which was hung on the nail, fell.
7. The fevered boy died.
8. Call the glass-breaker boy.
9. Call the tea-drinker boy.
10. The hung cup fell down.
11. The innocent child.
12. The child is innocent.

CAUSATIVES, PASSIVES/INCAPABILITATIVE

1. Mother fed the baby.
2. Mother made the ayaa [nurse] feed the baby.
3. Father got all the papers thrown away by the servant.
4. The girl is getting the varandah cleaned by the maid.
5. Shila asked Ratna to make Sita rise.
6. The teacher made the child study.
7. The forest officer is making the wood-cutter cut the trees.
8. Trees were cut.
9. The sister is making the little brother sleep.
10. Rajiv Gandhi was killed by a bomb.
11. If he had made him study computers he would have got the job by now.
12. Alas, my parents had made me study science!
13. The bottle broke (by me).
14. Rice is eaten in the Southern India.
15. A girl was raped last night.
16. I was beaten furiously by the goondas/hooligans.
17. The food cannot be eaten fast by the child.
18. Because of cold, writing cannot be done by me. (Hindi: likhna nahi jata)

CASES, AGREEMENT, COINDEXING

1. The boy is playing.
2. The boy is playing with a ball.
3. The boy ate a banana.
4. The boy played well.
5. The girl had eaten the meals.
6. Mother will cook now.
7. I am sad.
8. Ram is hungry/thirsty/in pain.
9. Pick up the book and keep it on the table.
10. Give the horse the feed.
11. Wash the clothes please.
12. Ram wrote a letter to his mother yesterday.
13. Curd is made from milk.
14. Ravan fought with Ram.

15. Hanuman burnt Lanka with his tail.
16. The leaves fall from trees in autumn.
17. Give me some money for my daughter.
18. Nobody is at home.
19. I bought everything in ten rupees.
20. Flowers are blooming in the garden.
21. The book is on the table.
22. Clothes are kept on the top of the box.
23. Books are kept at the bottom of the box.
24. There is a garden behind my house.
25. There is a mango tree in front of my house.
26. Sister will go shopping only with her friends.
27. Ram's sister's wedding is tomorrow.
28. Ram's cap is blue.
29. Buy twenty-five rupees' sugar [i.e. for 25 Rupees.].
30. Don't turn the book's pages.
31. Before I went to her house I changed my clothes.
32. After coming back from the movie I went to sleep.

COMPARATIVE/CONTRASTIVE

1. River water is cleaner than lake water.
- 1 The Ganga water is the cleanest.
3. Bombay weather is wet but Delhi weather is dry.
4. India is corrupt but Japan is not.
5. My uniform is whiter than his uniform.

ECHO-FORMATIONS

1. Please have some tea etc.
2. He has gone to buy some stationary etc.
3. He got some chairs etc. on his marriage.
4. Sit etc. (imperative) [*try this with formal, informal and intimate forms.*]
5. I cannot walk etc, (Hindi: muj ϕ se c \star la v la n \star hi \downarrow jata)
6. Why do you get angry etc?
7. Children go to study carrying bag etc.
8. The throat does not go bad by singing etc.

CLASSIFIERS

1. Two books were stolen.
2. Longish bamboo was lying there.
3. Round moon.
4. One girl/boy.

REDUPLICATION

1. He was walking slowly slowly.
2. He came again and again.
3. What all did he eat?
4. Who all came to the party?
5. When when (how often) will you go to Ranchi?
6. Where all Ram found Sita's ornaments?
7. He got tired (of) sitting sitting.
8. I got bored writing letters.
9. She spoke while eating.
10. The child fell down while walking on the footpath.
11. While/As he was watching, the thieves ran away with the cash.
12. Give me hot hot coffee.
13. Red red apples are juicy.
14. Bring sweet sweet mangoes.
15. How are you going to jump over these high high hedges?
16. Give me little little of every variety of sweets.
17. Don't come after me (Hindi: pic ϕ e pic ϕ e)
18. Sometime or the other (Hindi: k \star b ϕ i na k \star b ϕ i) he will come back to me.

COMPOUND VERBS

1. The old elephant died.

2. By the time papa came home his friend had left.
3. Give me the letter.
4. Get out!
5. Please knit a sweater [for me].
6. Please knit a sweater [for yourself].
7. See Lakshmi sing!
8. He sat down.

CONJUNCT VERBS/ CONVERBS

1. Having eaten his meal papa went out for a stroll.
2. Read the letter loud (Hindi: *p ★ "p k ★ r sunao*).
3. See the house properly (Hindi: *g pum k ★ r*).
4. He did not do well having cheated his own brother.
5. Go and see (Hindi: *ja k ★ r dek ho*).
6. He hit me and ran away.

INFINITIVES, COMPLEMENTS

1. I don't like your coming here.
2. Who does not like to eat well?
3. Because of his coming back his mother could survive.
4. He told me that he was leaving the town soon.
5. She said that she likes to cook.
6. My sister told me that it rained heavily last night.

Total number of sentences 160