

13401 Indirect Verb Constructions, RM

A number of very common, useful concepts are potentially difficult for English speakers because of the mis-match between the subject of the Hindi sentence and the ‘logical’ subject in the mind of the English speaker and reinforced by the translation. Jain has called these Indirect Verb Constructions and introduces them in Chapter 13, pp 112-115.

‘Indirect Verb Constructions’ give a general sense that the person is not actively involved with the action - so the action or condition or feeling happens to the person rather than the person making it happen.

The basic sentence structure is:

IO + को	Subject	Verb
अंजलि को	ये साड़ियाँ	पसन्द हैं

to Anjali these saris are pleasing.

‘These saris are pleasing to Anjali’ or ‘Anjali likes these saris’

The following verbs/verbal phrases are also introduced in Chapter 12.

मालूम होना	to know (information)
infinitive of Verb + आना	to know how to
चाहिये	to want, to need
मिलना	to obtain, to get, to be available

We’ll soon be encountering and learning other useful phrases that fall into the category of indirect verb constructions and may seem a bit ‘illogical’ to the English speaker. These include how to express:

1. feel (tired, hungry, thirsty, good, bad, etc)
2. seem (interesting, fun etc.)
3. have to/ need to (eat spinach, buy a kurta etc.)
4. must (arrive on time, do homework etc.)
5. should, ought to (eat lots of fruits and vegetables, go home now, etc.)

All of these will involve indirect verb constructions and will further your knowledge of when to use the post position को.