

# Sentence Transformations

Bachillerato



# Sentence Transformations

Sentence or Key Word Transformation exercises to assess your knowledge of grammar and vocabulary. There is always a transformation exercise in the exam to access university and they are typical in Cambridge exams too.

# TRANSFORMATIONS

These exercises ask you to rewrite a sentence so that it has the same meaning, but you must use different words or structures. That is, you **MUST** paraphrase.

## **THE MOST IMPORTANT RULE:**

The meaning must stay exactly the same. Only the form changes.

Example: I started playing football three years ago and I am still playing today. (HAVE)  
I have been playing football for 3 years.

# Remember

2-5

read the question

Usually, you need to use between 2 and 5 words, but this may vary.

2

Contractions are two words

Contracted forms (*shouldn't, haven't, isn't, I've, etc*) count as two words. Exception: *can't (cannot)*.

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Keep the same meaning

The rephrased sentences must convey the same idea.

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# Tenses

Common sentence transformations involve rephrasing of **tenses** (Past Simple, Present Perfect, Future Perfect Continuous, etc).

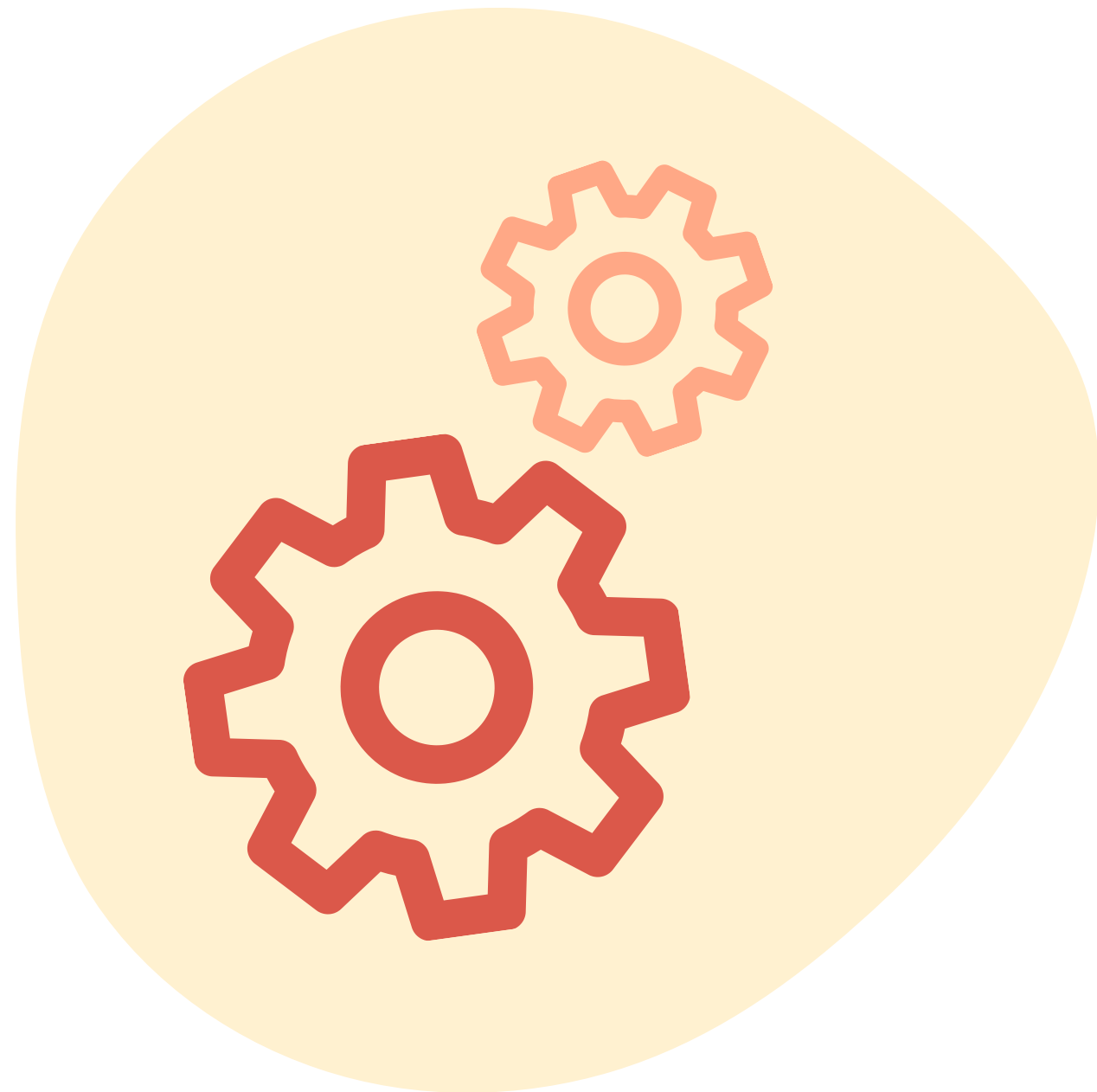
# Examples

## Tenses

I last saw my father two years ago. **NOT**  
I **haven't/have not seen my father** for two years.

Do you have any plans for this Saturday? **ARE**  
What **are you doing** this Saturday? \*

We'll get to the airport after take-off! Hurry! **HAVE**  
The plane **will have taken off** by the time we get to the airport.



# Modals & Auxiliaries

It is frequent to find questions testing your knowledge of **modality** and **auxiliaries**, such as will, be going to, have, may, must, etc.

# Examples

Modals

Auxiliaries

It is forbidden to smoke here. **NOT**

You **can't/cannot/mustn't/must not smoke** here. \*

I'm sure my neighbour isn't at home. I saw him leave. **BE**

**My neighbour can't/cannot be** at home. I saw him leave.

It is likely to rain this afternoon. **PROBABLY**

**It'll/It will probably rain** this afternoon.

\*You **aren't/are not allowed to smoke** here.



# Conditionals & Unreal Past

Type 0, I, II, III and mixed conditionals may be tested. The unreal past (I wish, if only, I'd rather) is also very common.

# Examples

Conditionals

Unreal Past

I think you should discuss it with your family. **IF**  
If I **were you**, I'd discuss it with my family.

She regrets not having studied much for the exam. **HAD**  
She **wishes she had studied** harder for the exam.

I missed the bus and was late for the meeting. **AT**  
If I hadn't missed the bus, I **would have arrived at** the meeting on time



# Comparatives & Superlatives

Comparatives, superlatives and other structures to make comparisons (so/such, too/enough, as...as) are very common in this kind of exercises.

# Examples

Comparatives

Superlatives

so/such - too/enough -  
as...as

My brother is the smartest in the family. **NO**  
No one is smarter than my brother in my family.

We haven't had such warm weather since May. **BEEN**  
It hasn't/has not been so warm since May.

You're too young to go on the rollercoaster. **OLD**  
You aren't/are not old enough to go on the rollecoaster.



# LINKERS

Transformations with linkers are quite common in official exams.

# Examples

linkers

We stayed at home because it was raining (OF)

Because of the rain, we stayed at home.

Although he was tired, he finished the work (IN)

In spite of being tired, he finished the work.

Although it was cold, they went out (THE)

Despite the cold, they went out.



# Practice

Rewrite the following sentences so as to keep the same meaning. Write 2 to 5 words in the gaps including the key word. Do not change the word given.

# Practice I

1) I regret not finishing school. **WISH**

I  out of school.

2) Have you finished your lunch yet? **STILL**

lunch?

3) Your friend is a bit shorter than you. **TALL**

Your friend  you.

4) You were supposed to submit your essay yesterday. **SHOULD**

You  your essay yesterday.

# Practice I

1) I regret not finishing school. **WISH**

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lunch?

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You  your essay yesterday.

# Answers I

1) I regret not finishing school. **WISH**

I  out of school.

2) Have you finished your lunch yet? **STILL**

lunch?

3) Your friend is a bit shorter than you. **TALL**

Your friend  you.

4) You were supposed to submit your essay yesterday. **SHOULD**

You  your essay yesterday.

## Practice II

5) Stop making so much noise! **WOULD**

I  so much noise.

6) That was the first time I had seen an elephant. **NEVER**

an elephant before.

7) Is it allowed to eat on the bus? **WE**

on the bus?

8) Do you want me to help you with those bags? **I**

with those bags?

## Answers II

5) Stop making so much noise! **WOULD**

I  so much noise.

6) That was the first time I had seen an elephant. **NEVER**

an elephant before.

7) Is it allowed to eat on the bus? **WE**

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8) Do you want me to help you with those bags? **I**

with those bags?

**Keep up the**  
**hard work!**

Remember that practice makes perfect!