



## LEARNING ENGLISH: SENTENCES WHICH ARE HELPFUL FOR TAMIL MEDIUM STUDENTS

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### ABSTRACT

In most of the time, the Tamil medium students hesitate to use English in everyday life. They are afraid to speak or write as they may intend to commit mistakes. To get rid of their mistakes and fear, different methods are followed by experts. This paper tries to bring out some basic sentences along with their translation for Tamil medium students. There are 48 sentences (in voice) that can be used for their needs of written English. The model sentences have a subject (He), a verb (write) and an object (a letter). These sentences can be used to frame questions and answer of such questions. They can achieve confidence when they use such questions and answers for spoken English. During the discussion of sentences, the students are encouraged to use sentences in Tamil. The sentences are then translated into English using the basic equivalent sentence structure given in the basic sentences. Whatever the sentences (in Tamil) the students say in Tamil, they are almost from the basic sentences given. So these 48 sentences are very useful for the Tamil medium students.

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Learning English for Tamil medium students has been always a difficult task. The students from vernacular medium face the difficulties to use English in day today life. They hesitate to use English because they are afraid whether they may commit mistakes. Besides motivating students, teachers have been trying various methods to teach English to the vernacular medium students. But still, some students face difficulties. This paper tries to bring out some basic sentences along with their translation for Tamil medium students. There are 48 sentences (in voice) that can be used for their needs in written English. The model sentences have a subject (He), a verb (write) and an object (a letter). One subject, one object and one object are used to refer to all the sentences so that the students can

differentiate the structures easily from one another. These sentences can be used to frame questions and answer of such questions. They can achieve confidence when they use such questions and answers for spoken English. During the discussion of sentences in class hours, the students are encouraged to use sentences in Tamil. The sentences are then translated into English using the basic equivalent sentence structure given in the basic sentences. Whatever the sentences (in Tamil) the students say in Tamil, they are almost from the basic sentences given. So these 48 sentences are very useful for the Tamil medium students.

**The Helpful Sentences:**

| Active Voice                       | Passive Voice                           |
|------------------------------------|---|
| He writes a letter                 | A letter is written by him              |
| He wrote a letter                  | A letter was written by him             |
| He will write a letter             | A letter will be written by him         |
| He is writing a letter             | A letter is being written by him        |
| He was writing a letter            | A letter was being written by him       |
| He will be writing a letter        | ----                                    |
| He has written a letter            | A letter has been written by him        |
| He had written a letter            | A letter had been written by him        |
| He will have written a letter      | A letter will have been written by him  |
| He has been writing a letter       | ----                                    |
| He had been writing a letter       | ----                                    |
| He will have been writing a letter | ----                                    |
| He may/might write a letter        | A letter may/might be written by him    |
| He can write a letter              | A letter can be written by him          |
| He could write a letter            | A letter could be written by him        |
| He should write a letter           | A letter should be written by him       |
| He must write a letter             | A letter must be written by him         |
| He has to write a letter           | A letter has to be written by him       |
| He had to write a letter           | A letter had to be written by him       |
| He will have to write a letter     | A letter will have to be written by him |
| He is going to write a letter      | A letter is going to be written by him  |
| He may/might be writing a letter   | ----                                    |
| He must/should be writing a letter | ----                                    |

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| He might have written a letter       | A letter might have been written by him       |
| He must/should have written a letter | A letter must/should have been written by him |
| Write a letter                       | Let a letter be written                       |
| Let him write a letter               | Let a letter be written by him                |

By using the translation of sentences, their idea of framing sentences can be transferred from their mother tongue to English. The only thing is that they should keep the structures by using the different subjects and verbs. They should also know the equivalent sentences in both Tamil and English. They are instructed to construct more and more sentences along with their translation. The learners are informed to frame questions and answers for each and every structure. For every sentence, they are asked to frame two questions with four possible answers.

For example:

I have been waiting since 9 o'clock

For the above sentence, two questions and four different answers can be written:

Question: Have you been waiting since 9 o'clock?

Answers: Yes, I have been waiting since 9 o'clock

No, I have not been waiting since 9 o'clock

No, I have been waiting since 6 o'clock

WH Question: How long have you been waiting?

Answer: I have been waiting since 9 o'clock

Students are informed to write such questions and answers. Plenty of exercises are given in this way. Translation of such sentences is given whenever the learners need them. These sentences with translation give some confidence as they use the sentences from Tamil to English. By following all the sentence structures, they can assure that can speak and write correct sentences. After familiarize with these types of sentences, the learners are informed to use various sentences by refereeing grammar books and other resources.

**REFERENCE**

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