

को

A list of common expressions featuring the postposition को.

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(Most of these are introduced in *TY Hindi* sections 4.4, 5.4, 6.5, 82-3, 13.2, 13.3, 13.5, 13.6, 14.1 and 18.1; and in *Beginner's Hindi* sections 4.5, 4.6, 6.4, 10.1-3.)

The principal use of को is to mark an object. In मैं राम को बताऊँगा “I’ll tell Ram”, राम is said to be the DIRECT object because the action of telling is done to him directly. In मैं यह तोहफ़ा राम को दूँगा “I’ll give this present to Ram”, को means “to” and is used to mark the INDIRECT object राम; the direct object is यह तोहफ़ा and does not take को.

Another use of को is to pinpoint days of the week or times of day: गुरुवार को “on Thursday”, सुबह को “in the morning”, शाम को “in the evening”, रात को “at night” (but दिन में “in the daytime”).

So much for the primary uses of को. The purpose of this handout is to list some of the very numerous constructions and expressions in which को has a different function. While expressions such as “I have a cold” or “I like bananas” have “I” as subject in English, in Hindi this “logical subject” takes को (मुझको) and the cold or the banana becomes the grammatical subject, with which the verb agrees (जुकाम है): मुझको ज़ुकाम है “I have a cold”, मुझको केले पसंद हैं “I like bananas”.

Each of these expressions can refer to either a male or a female, because the pronoun has no gender. And मुझको can of course be replaced by its synonym मुझे.

Familiarise yourself with this list by reading it aloud, and try some substitution exercises by changing the “I” to other pronouns and tenses — “She has a cold, they had a cold”, etc. Then read the note at the end.

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| मुझको जुकाम है । | I have a cold. | |
| मुझको बुखार है । | I have a fever. | |
| मुझको आशा है कि... | I hope that... | |
| मुझको संदेह है कि... | I doubt that... | संदेह ^m doubt |
| मुझको आश्चर्य है कि... | I’m surprised that... | आश्चर्य ^m surprise |

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| मुझको यह सुनकर आश्चर्य हुआ । | I was surprised to hear this. | |
| मुझको तस्सली हुई । | I was comforted (consoled). | तस्सली ^f consolation |
| मुझको अफ़सोस है कि... | I'm sorry that... | अफ़सोस ^m regret |
| मुझको मालूम है । | I know. | |
| मुझको मालूम नहीं । | I don't know. | |
| मुझको नहीं मालूम । | I don't know. | |
| मुझको मालूम था । | I knew. | |
| मुझको उनके नाम मालूम थे । | I knew their names. | |
| मुझको क्या मालूम ? | What do I know? | |
| मुझको परवाह नहीं । | I don't care. | परवाह ^f care, concern |
| मुझको हिन्दी फ़िल्में पसंद हैं । | I like Hindi films. | |
| मुझको नई फ़िल्म पसंद आई । | I liked the new film. | |
| तुम्हें बहुत मज़ा आएगा । | You'll enjoy [it] a lot. | मज़ा ^m enjoyment, fun |
| तुहें बहुत आनंद आएगा। | You'll enjoy [it] a lot. | आनंद ^m enjoyment, happiness |
| मुझको पैसा चाहिए । | I need money. | |
| मुझको पैसा चाहिए था । | I needed money. | |
| मुझको पैसा चाहिए होगा । | I will need money. | |
| मुझको पैसे की ज़रूरत है / थी । | I need / needed money. | |

And some constructions with more advanced grammar:

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| मुझको जाना चाहिए । | I should go. |
| मुझको जाना है । | I have to go. |
| मुझको कुछ कहना है । | I have something to say. |
| मुझको तुमसे कुछ कहना है । | I have something to say to you. |
| मुझको जाना पड़ता है । | I have to go [regularly]. |
| मुझको जाना पड़ा । | I had to go [unexpectedly]. |
| मुझको जाना होगा । | I'll have to go. |
| मुझको जाना पड़ेगा । | I'll <i>have</i> to go. |
| मुझको उर्दू सीखनी होगी / पड़ेगी । | I'll have to learn Urdu. |

मुझको नए कपड़े खरीदने होंगे / पड़ेंगे । I'll have to buy new clothes.

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| मुझको काम है । | I have work [to do]. | |
| मुझको समय नहीं है । | I don't have time. | |
| मुझको फुरसत है । | I have free time, I'm free. | फुरसत ^f leisure |
| मुझको फुरसत नहीं थी । | I didn't have free time, wasn't free. | |
| मुझको डर है । | I am afraid. | डर ^m fear |
| मुझको तुमसे डर है । | I am afraid of you. | |
| मुझको भूतों से डर है । | I'm afraid of ghosts. | |
| मुझको डर लग रहा है । | I feel / am feeling afraid. | |
| मुझको ठंड लग रही है । | I feel / am feeling cold. | ठंड ^f cold |
| मुझको ठंड लगी है । | I am cold, have caught cold. | |
| मुझको गरमी लग रही है । | I feel / am feeling hot. | गरमी ^f heat |
| मुझको प्यास लग रही है । | I feel / am feeling thirsty. | प्यास ^f thirst |
| मुझको भूख लग रही है । | I feel / am feeling hungry. | भूख ^f hunger |
| मुझको नींद आ रही है । | I feel / am feeling sleepy. | नींद ^f sleep |
| मुझको तुमसे प्यार है । | I love you. | प्यार ^m love |
| मुझको तुमसे प्यार हो गया है । | I've fallen in love with you. | |
| मुझको फ़्लू हो गया है । | I've caught flu. | |
| मुझको उनसे ईर्ष्या थी । | I was jealous of them. | ईर्ष्या ^f jealousy |
| मुझको उनसे ईर्ष्या हुई । | I became jealous of them. | |
| मुझको नेताओं से नफ़रत है । | I hate politicians ('leaders'). | नफ़रत ^f hatred, dislike |
| मुझको तीन भाषाएँ आती हैं । | I know three languages. | |
| मुझको लिखना भी आता है । | I can (I know how to) write too. | |
| मुझको गाना नहीं आता । | I can't sing. | |
| मुझको लगता है कि... | I think that..., it seems to me that... | |
| मुझको दिल्ली अच्छी लगती है । | I like Delhi. | |

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| मुझको तुम्हारे दोस्त बहुत अच्छे लगे । | I liked your friends a lot. | |
| मुझको उनकी बातें बुरी लगीं । | I disliked (was hurt by) what they said. | |
| मुझको घर पहुँचने में दो घंटे लगे । | It took me two hours to get home. | |
| मुझको पता चला । | I found out, I came to know. | |
| मुझको पता चलेगा । | I'll find out. | |
| मुझको राजा कहते हैं । | I'm known as Raja ('they call me Raja'). | |
| मुझे चोट लगी । | I got hurt. | चोट ^f injury, hurt |
| मुझको याद है । | I remember. | |
| मुझको उसका नाम याद है । | I remember his/her name. | |
| मुझको उन दिनों की याद आती है । | I remember (or miss) those days. | |
| मुझको कोई एतराज़ नहीं है । | I have no objection. | एतराज़ ^m objection |
| मुझको बहुत असुविधा हुई । | I was much inconvenienced. | असुविधा ^f inconvenience |
| मुझको यह साड़ी वाराणसी में मिली । | I got this sari in Varanasi. | |
| मुझको यह साड़ी ५०० रुपये में मिली । | I got this sari for Rs 500. | |
| मुझको आपसे मिलकर बड़ी खुशी हुई । | I am very pleased to have met you. | |
| मुझको इसके बारे में बताया गया । | I was told about this. [passive verb] ¹ | |
| मुझको भी बुलाया गया । | I too was called, invited. [passive verb] ¹ | |
| मुझको यहाँ रहते २ साल हो गए हैं । | I've been living here for 2 years. [रहते imperf. participle] ² | |
| मुझको वहाँ गए २ साल हो गए हैं । | It's 2 years since I went there. [गए perf. participle] ² | |

Part of the trick of learning Hindi is to be able to switch between मैं- type sentences and मुझको- type sentences without losing your balance. For example, in the box below, all the verbs have "I" as subject in the English; but in the Hindi, मैं constructions and मुझको (= मुझे) constructions alternate:

मैं आस्टिन में रहती हूँ । मुझको यह घर बहुत पसंद नहीं है । मैं शिफ्ट कर सकती हूँ लेकिन मुझे मालूम नहीं कि मैं कहाँ जाऊँ । मुझको अपने दोस्तों की सलाह लेनी चाहिए । मैं भारत भी जाना चाहती हूँ । मुझे आशा है कि मैं अगले साल जा पाऊँगी । मुझको जाने का प्रोग्राम बनाना चाहिए ।

¹TY Hindi section 14.1; Beginner's Hindi section 10.1.

²TY Hindi section 18.1

I live in London. I don't like this house very much. I can move house but I don't know where I should go. I should take my friends' advice. I also want to go to India. I hope I'll manage to go next year. I ought to make a plan to go.