Maybe their sister speaks Panjabi too.

Someone opened the window.

Someone has opened the window.

Someone had opened the window.

Someone will have (must have) opened the window.

Someone may have opened the window.

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12. COMPULSION 1 — INFINITIVE VERB + ĂHIYE

Don’t confuse this usage with noun + Ăhiye, as in mujhe pənt Ăhiye I want/need water.

The sentence mujhe jănā Ăhiye means ‘I should go’, and may have nothing to do with actual wanting, as we see in mujhe ghar jănā Ăhiye lekin mař jănā nahnă cahță ‘I should go home but I don’t want to.’

You should stay right here.

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Mehek should have arrived by now.

So what should we do?

Maybe we shall call someone.

The infinitive verb agrees with a direct object: so *karnā* agrees with *śikāyat*, and *karnā* with *intazār* —

You shouldn’t complain.

We should wait two or three hours.

### 13. COMPLICATION 2 — INFINITIVE VERB + PĀRNĀ

Built like the *cālihe* construction, this *pārnā* usage means ‘must’ — a strong sense of compulsion, typically beyond the control of the individual concerned. Here are examples in the future tense:

We’ll have to say something to that dog-owner.

Yes, and we’ll have to complain to the police too.
Leena will have to go to hospital.

In the imperfective tenses, this construction speaks of regular or routine commitments:

We always have to leave the house at seven.

Chotu is still young so I have to help him.

And in perfective tenses, the context often involves an unforeseen need or unexpected crisis:

I got up late so I had to come by taxi.

The door was locked so we had to break a window.

My hand got cut. I had to bandage it.
14. COMPULSION 3 — INFINITIVE VERB + HÓNÄ

Built like the pañā construction, this pañā usage gives a weaker sense of compulsion—a mention of things due to be done as a matter of course. Remember that the system of agreement remains the same as in the cāhīe and pañā constructions: in our first example, karne hai agrees with masculine plural kām ‘jobs, tasks’.

मुझे बहुत दर्द सारे छोटे-सोटे काम करने हैं।
I have loads of odd tasks to do.

आज हमें महक से मिलना था मगर उसने फोन नहीं किया।
Today we were to meet Mehek but she hasn’t called.

सीना को भी आना था लेकिन वह नहीं आई।
Leena was to come too but she didn’t come.

लेई आपको बाहर जाना है न?
Tomorrow you have to go out, don’t you?

(तुमको) कोई पीनी है?
(Would you) like some coffee?

15. SAKNÄ and PÄNÄ

These verbs, which express ability or its opposite, are intransitive, so there’s no ne involved.

Verb stem + sakh na gives a sense of ‘ability’—often a physical ability to do something. It also appears in the sense of ‘may I?’ when seeking permission.

क्या तुम यह फोटो भेज सकते हो?
Can you send this photo?
No, the file is very big, I can't download it.

Mehek couldn’t send it either.
(Mehek also could not send it.)

May I see that photo?

Verb stem + pāna also gives a sense of ‘ability’, but often meaning ‘to manage’ to achieve something.

She wanted to help me but couldn’t.

Even she can’t understand this new program.

Verb stem + cukna means ‘having finished doing’ something, or ‘having already done’ something. This too is intransitive — no ne involved! It is not used in negated sentences (if you haven’t done something, then how could you have finished doing it?)

Leena has already been tricked many times!
17. COMPOUND VERBS

Compound verbs have a physical structure like that of the previous item: a verb stem followed by an inflecting verb. The verb stem gives the basic meaning, and the inflecting verb adds nuance: thus *karnā* means ‘to do’, while *kar lenā* typically means ‘to do for oneself’. Generally speaking, *lenā* suggests a sense of self-benefit or achievement, *denā* suggests an outward-going action or benefit, *jānā* emphasizes the completion or finality suggested by the act of ‘arrival’, and *dālnā* adds vigor or violence. This is just the beginning of a long list of highly expressive ... er ... expressions.

Leena made herself some tea.

Then she burned all Ravi’s letters.

When she saw that Mehek had arrived...

...she let rip about Ravi.

So much for a traditional introduction to compound verbs. What the learner *really* needs to learn is when *not* to use them. For example, they are typically *not used* in negated sentences, or in contexts such as questions, which lack the affirmative basis for adding nuance. Compound verbs are like
spices added to food: great to add subtle flavor, but not so good when wrongly applied, and pointless in a ‘negative’ context where there is no food at all!

18. COUNTERFACTUALS

Counterfactuals (or, if you prefer, ‘counter-to-fact’ constructions) speak of things that could have been but weren’t or aren’t. Mehek isn’t here, but if she was...

अगर महक यही होती तो यह हमारी मदद जरूर करती |
If Mehek were here she’d help us for sure.

अगर लीना भी आई होती तो क्या होता?
What would have happened if Leena had come too?

अगर ये पत्थर बोलते तो क्या कहते?
If these stones spoke what would they say?

काश लुहारी मी भी यही होती!
If only your mother were here too!

19. THE INFINITIVE AS A VERBAL NOUN

The infinitive form of the verb states the essential action itself: ‘to be or not to be’, honā yā na honā.

सच बोलना अच्छा होता है।
It is good to tell the truth.

कभी कभी झूठ बोलना भी जरूरी होता है।
Sometimes it’s necessary to lie also.

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In the sentences above, the verbal noun *bolnā* is in its direct form because it is the subject of the verb. But elsewhere it can take a postposition, changing its -ā ending to oblique -e just like any other masculine noun:

२०। **MILNĀ AS ‘TO GET’, or rather ‘TO BE AVAILABLE’**

When Hindi-Urdu talks about a person ‘getting’ X, it makes X the subject of the verb *milnā*, while the recipient takes *ko*. Think of *milnā* as meaning ‘to be available, to accrue’. ‘I will get a pension’, *mujhko penśan milegā*.

क्या हमको हिन्दुस्तान जाने का मौका मिलेगा?
Will we get the chance to go to India?

हाँ, आपको टिकट भी मिलेगा!
Yes, you’ll get a ticket too!

मुझे दुसरा खत मिल गया, पर लीना का नहीं मिला।
I got your letter, but I didn’t get Leena’s.

लीना से तो मालियली ही मिलती हैं।
All I get from Leena is bad language.
21. MILNÄ AS ‘TO MEET’

The ‘to get’ structure just described is used to describe a meeting that happens by chance; after all, ‘coming across’ or ‘bumping into’ someone is a bit like ‘getting’ or ‘finding’ them.

मॉल में मुझे महेक मिली।
In the mall I met Mehek.

If however you meet Mehek on purpose rather than by chance, she is marked by se —

आज मैं महेक से मिलना चाहता हूँ। उससे मॉल में मिलना।
Today I want to meet Mehek. I’ll meet her in the mall.

If both parties together form the joint subject, se is not involved —

हम भाषा को मिलें। मिलेंगे।
We met / will meet in the evening.

22. VERBS THAT TAKE SE

Here are some of there commonest verbs whose use involves the postposition se —

मिलना, to meet (with)
मिलना

वह तुमसे मिलना चाहता है।
He wants to meet you.

पूछना, to ask or inquire
पूछना

पूछना में मिलनाएं।
Ask Ram.

Ram से पूछें।
कहना, to say

उससे क्या कहूँ?
What should I say to him?

अस से लिखा जाए

इनकार करना, to refuse

इनकार करना, to refuse

राम ने हमारी मदद करने से इनकार कर दिया।
Ram refused to help us.

23. LAGNĀ

Here are some of the commonest uses of the overwhelmingly productive verb lagnā.

As ‘to seem’, or ‘it seems that…’ —

क्या हुआ महक? नाराज लगती है।
What’s the matter Mehek? You seem angry.

लगता है (कि) तुदेह कोई तकरीफ़ है।
It seems (that) you’re bothered by something.

A feeling or affliction such as hunger or thirst to be felt —

राम को भूख लगी है।
Ram is feeling hungry.

ही और मुझे व्यास लग रही है।
Yes and I’m getting thirsty!

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