Verb subcategorization

- **Problem:** Constraints on verbs and their complements.

*Nadia told / instructed / *said / *informed Ross to sit down.*
*Nadia *told / *instructed / said / *informed to sit down.*
*Nadia told / *instructed / *said / informed Ross of the requirement to sit down.*

Nadia gave / donated her painting to the museum.
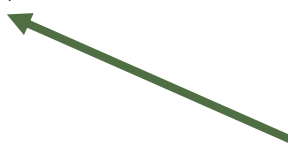*Nadia gave / *donated the museum her painting.*

Nadia put / ate the cake in the kitchen.
*Nadia *put / ate the cake.*

Verb subcategorization 2

- VPs are much more complex than just V with optional NP and/or PP.

  - Can include more than one NP.

  - Can include clauses of various types:
    that Ross fed the marmoset
    to pay him the money

- **Subcat**: A feature on a verb indicating the kinds of verb phrase it allows: _np, _np_np, _inf, _np_inf, …

  Write this way to distinguish from constituents.

Verb tense and aspect

- **Tense** and **aspect** markings on verb:

  - Locate the event in time (relative to another time).

  - Mark the event as complete/finished or in progress.

Nadia rides the horse. — In progress now.

Nadia rode the horse. — Completed before now.

Nadia had ridden the horse. — Completed before before now.

Nadia was riding the horse. — In progress before now.

⋮

Verb tense and aspect 2

- Tense: past or present
- Aspect: simple, progressive, or perfect

Nadia …

Auxiliary verb

In progress

Complete

	Simple	Progressive	Perfect
Present	*rides*	*is riding*	*has ridden*
Past	*rode*	*was riding*	*had ridden*

Present participle

Past participle

… the horse

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Verb tense and aspect 3

- Tense: past or present
- Aspect: simple, progressive, or perfect

Nadia …

Auxiliary verbs		
	Simple	**Perfect progressive (continuous)**
Present	*rides*	*has been riding*
Past	*rode*	*had been riding*

… the horse

Modal verbs

- **Modal verbs:** Auxiliary verbs that express degrees of certainty, obligation, possibility, prediction, etc.

Nadia

  {could, should, must, ought to, might, will, …}

  {ride, be riding, have ridden, have been riding}

    the horse.

English auxiliary system

- Structure (so far):
  [MODAL] [HAVE] [BE] MAIN-VERB

- General pattern:

VP → AUX VP

AUX → MODAL | HAVE | BE

- Use features to capture necessary agreements.

Voice 1

- **Voice:** System of assigning thematic roles to syntactic positions.

  - English has **active** and **passive** voices**.**

- Passive expressed with *be*+past participle.
  Other auxiliaries may also apply, including progressive *be*.

- *Nadia was kissed.*   *Nadia was being kissed.*
  Nadia had been kissed.   *Nadia had been being kissed.*
  Nadia could be kissed.   *Nadia could have been being kissed.*

- Structure:
  [MODAL] [HAVE] [BE₁] [BE₂] MAIN-VERB

Voice 2

The goalie kicked the ball. | ACTIVE |

Event: *kicked*

Role: Agent (doer)

Role: Theme (thing affected)

Thing: *the goalie*   Thing: *the ball*

```
kick (agent=goalie, theme=ball)
```

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Voice 3

The ball was kicked.

Event: *kicked*

Role: Theme
(thing affected)

Thing: *the ball*

```
kick (agent=?, theme=ball)
```

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Voice 4

The ball was kicked by the goalie. | PASSIVE |

Event: *kicked*

Role: Theme
(thing affected)

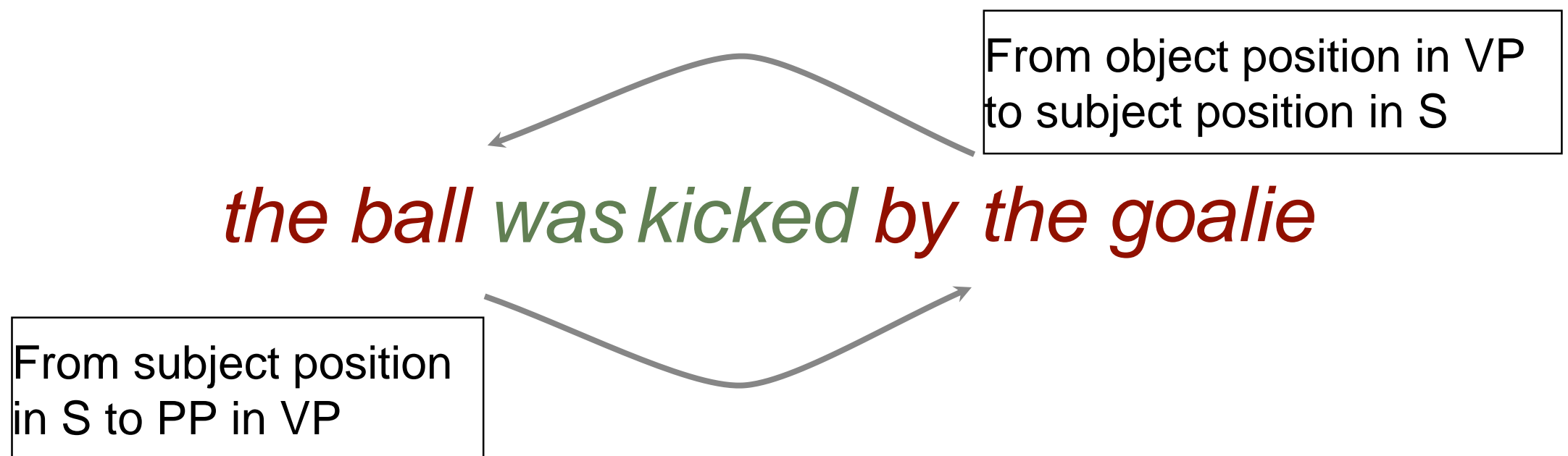Role: Agent
(doer)

Thing: *the ball*   Thing: *the goalie*

```
kick (agent=goalie, theme=ball)
```

Passive as *Diathetic alternation*

the goalie   *kicked*   *the ball*

Passive as *Diathetic alternation*

From object position in VP
to subject position in S

the ball was kicked by the goalie

From subject position
in S to PP in VP

But the semantic representation doesn't change

Some useful features

- **VForm**: The tense/aspect form of a verb: passive, pastprt, …

- **CompForm**: The tense/aspect form of the complement of an auxiliary.