[1] ***take want hit***

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

preterite *took wanted hit*

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

present tense ----------------------------------------------------------------

plain *take want hit*

*----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------*

plain form *take want hit*

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------

past participle  *taken wanted hit*

*----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------*

[2] ***have can***

neutral negative neutral negative

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preterite  *had hadn't could couldn't*

-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

present tense -----------------------------------------------------------------------

plain *have haven't*

------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

plain form *have*

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*------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------*

past participle  *had*

*------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------*

[3] Neutral Negative

1st sg 3rd sg Other 1st sg 3rd sg Other

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[4] i a. *She wanted the car.* b. *She took*/\**taken the car.* [preterite]

ii a. *She had wanted the car.* b. *She had taken*/\**took the car.* [past participle]

[5] i An inflectional distinction is accepted between two forms only if there is at least one lexeme with a stable contrast in realisation between those two forms.

ii Inflectional distinctions involving agreement properties are not generalised from one lexeme to another.

[6] i  *I'm warning you,* [*take careful note of what they say*]*.* [imperative]

ii *It is essential* [*that he take careful note of what they say*]*.* [subjunctive]

[7] i a. *She was ill.* b. *They were ill.* [verb agrees with subject]

ii a. *She looked ill.* b. *They looked ill.* [no agreement]

[8] i *I have written him a long letter.* [perfect]

ii *The letter was written by her secretary.* [passive]

[9] i *I came across a letter written ten years ago.* [head of clause]

ii *He showed me a hurriedly written first draft.* [attributive]

[10] i *It was broken deliberately, out of spite.* [past participle form of verb]

ii *It didn't look broken to me.* [past-participial adjective]

iii *It was broken.* [ambiguous]

[11] i *He quickly spent the money given him by his uncle.* [verb + indirect object]

ii *They sacked those considered guilty of bias.*  [verb + predicative comp]

[12] i *The picture seemed excellent*/*distorted.* [*seem* + adjective]

ii \**The boss seemed considered guilty of bias.* [*seem* + verb]

[13] i  *He was* [*very frightened*]/ [*too frightened to move*]*.* [adjective]

ii \**The plants were* [*very*/*too watered*] *by the gardener.* [verb]

[14] i *The train to Bath is now approaching Platform 3.* [with progressive auxiliary]

ii *The train approaching Platform 3 is the 11.10 to Bath.* [head of clause]

iii *He threw it in the path of an approaching train.* [attributive]

[15] i *They are entertaining the prime minister and her husband.* [form of verb]

ii *The show was entertaining in many ways.* [participial adjective]

iii *Her parents are entertaining.* [ambiguous]

[16] i *You're frightening me.* [form of verb]

ii *Such a prospect is frightening indeed.* [participial adjective]

[17] i *They are*/\**seem entertaining the prime minister and her husband.* [verb]

ii *The show was*/*seemed entertaining in many ways.* [adjective]

[18] i \**They are very entertaining the prime minister and her husband.*

ii *The show was very entertaining indeed.*

[19] i *Destroying the files was a serious mistake.*

ii *I regret destroying the files.*

[20] i *He was expelled for killing the birds.* [form of verb]

ii *She had witnessed the killing of the birds.* [gerundial noun]

[21] i *He was expelled for wantonly killing the birds.* [adverb + verb]

ii *She had witnessed the wanton killing of the birds.* [adjective + noun]

[22] i *Kim hates writing thank-you letters.* [verb]

ii *Kim hadn't been involved in the writing of the letter.* [noun]

iii *Kim had been talking about writing.* [ambiguous]

[23] i *She had witnessed the killing of the birds.* [gerundial noun]

ii a. *He was expelled for killing the birds.* ) [gerund-participle form of verb]

b. *They are entertaining the prime minister.* )

iii *The show was entertaining in some ways.* [participial adjective]

[24] i *Be on your guard.* [imperative]

ii *It is essential* [*that she be on her guard*]*.* [subjunctive]

iii *It is important* [*to be always on your guard*]*.* [infinitival]

[25] i *I haven't read it yet but I hope to shortly.*

ii *I want to* [*go out and get some exercise*]*.*

iii *I'm trying to gradually improve my game.*

[26] *You are on your guard.* [present tense]

[27] i a. *I think they take their son to school by car.* [present tense]

b. *I thought they took their son to school by car.* [preterite]

ii a. *We demand that they be reinstated.* ) [plain form]

b. *We demanded that they be reinstated.* )

[28] i *They can recite it by heart.* [present tense]

ii \**Can recite it by heart by the end of the week.* [imperative]

iii *\*It is important for them to can recite it by heart.* [infinitival]

[29] i *She always took her dog with her.* [past time]

ii *If he took the later plane tonight he wouldn't have to rush.* [modal remoteness]

iii *Kim said I took things too seriously.* [backshift]

[30] i *She always takes her dog with her.*

ii *If he takes the later plane tonight he won't have to rush.*

iii *Kim said I take things too seriously.*

[31] i *I was very busy.* [preterite]

ii *If I were less busy I would go with you.* [irrealis]

[32] i *He talks to me as if I were a child.* ) [modal remoteness]

ii *I wish I were going with you.* )

[33] i %*She phoned to ascertain whether he were dining at the Club.* ) [backshift]

ii %*He looked at me as if he suspected I were cheating on him.* )

iii %*If he were surprised, he didn't show it.* [past time]

[34] i *If that be so, the plan will have to be revised.* [subjunctive use of plain form]

ii *If that were so, the plan would have to be revised.* [irrealis]

[35] verb inflection construction clause finiteness

primary form ) finite

plain form ( imperative )

( subjunctive )

( infinitival ) non-finite

gerund-participial )

past-participle )

[36] i *The boy was seen by the guard.* [finite, main]

ii *The boy who was seen by the guard was her son.* [finite, subordinate]

iii *The boy seen by the guard was her son.* [non-finite, subordinate]

[37] i *They don't leave until tomorrow.* [tensed]

ii *Don't leave until tomorrow.* [imperative]

iii *I advise you not to leave* / \**to don't leave until tomorrow.* [non-finite]

[38] i *It is important* [*that she be reinstated immediately*]*.* [subjunctive]

ii *It is important* [*that she is / should be reinstated immediately*]*.* [tensed]

[39] i *It is unusual* [*for him to be so late*]*.* [infinitival]

ii *It is annoying* [*that he is so late*]*.* [finite]

[40] i *She will read it.* ) [neutral form]

ii *She will not read it.* )

iii *She won't read it.* [negative form]

[41] i *Won't* / \**Will not she be glad?* [not replaceable by *will not*]

ii *He says she'll read it, but she won't* / *will not.* [contrastive negation]

[42] i *Don't anybody eat it!* [imperative: no agreement plain form]

ii *Doesn't anybody eat it?* [interrogative: agreement present tense]

[1] i ***can***, ***may***, ***will***, ***shall***, ***must***, ***ought***, ***need***, ***dare*** [modals]

ii ***be***, ***have***, ***do***, %***use*** [non-modals]

[2] auxiliaries lexical verbs

i a. *Need I bother?* b. *Do I need to bother?*

ii a. *I daren't tell you any more.* b. *No one had dared to contradict him.*

iii a. *They had finished.* b. *They had a fight.*

iv a. *She doesn't agree with you.* b. *She does her best.*

v a. %*You usedn't to worry about it.* b. *You didn't use to worry about it.*

[3] auxiliary verb lexical verb

i a. *He has seen it.* b. *He saw it.*

ii a. *He has not seen it.* b. \**He saw not it.* [Negation]

iii a. *Has he seen it?* b. \**Saw he it?* [Inversion]

iv a. *He has seen it and I have too.* b. \**He saw it and I saw too.* [Code]

v a. *They don't think he's seen* b. \**They don't think he saw*

*it but he has seen it.* *it but he saw it.* [Emphasis]

[4] auxiliary verb lexical verb

i a. \**He does not have seen it.* b. *He did not see it.* [Negation]

ii a. \**Does he have seen it?* b. *Did he see it?* [Inversion]

iii a. \**He has seen it and I do too.* b. *He saw it and I did too.* [Code]

iv a. \**They don't think he's seen it* b. *They don't think he saw it*

*but he does have seen it. but he did see it.* [Emphasis]

[5] positive primary verb negation

i a. *That is reasonable.* b. *That isn't* / *is not reasonable.*

ii a. *That seems reasonable.* b. *That doesn't* / *does not seem reasonable.*

[6] i a. *They didn't go to Paris.* [primary verb negation]

b. *No one went to Paris.* ) [non-verbal negation]

c. *They went not to Paris but to Berlin.* )

ii a. *He didn't promise to help them.* [primary verb negation]

b. *He promised not to help them.* [non-imperative secondary negation]

[7] i *You aren't put off by his manner.* [primary verb negation]

ii *Don't be put off by his manner.* [imperative negation]

[8] default order subjectauxiliary inversion

i a. *She can speak French.* b. *Can she speak French?*

ii a. *She speaks French.* b. *Does she speak French?*

[9] subject + verb order subjectauxiliary inversion

i a. *Who told you that?* b. *What did she tell you?*

ii a. *And after that you went where?* b. *And where did you go after that?*

iii a. *I wonder what she is doing.* b. *What is she doing?*

[10] i a. *What a fool I have been!* b. *What a fool have I been!*

ii a. *How hard she tried!* b. *How hard did she try!*

[11] i a. *He found not one of them useful.* b. *Not one of them did he find useful.*

ii a. *Somewhere he mentions my book.* b. *Nowhere does he mention my book.*

[12] i a. *He found only two of them useful.* b. *Only two of them did he find useful.*

ii a. *She had complained only once.*  b. *Only once had she complained.*

[13] i a. *We had so little time that we* b. *So little time did we have that we*

*had to cut corners. had to cut corners.*

ii a. *He would make such a fuss* b. *Such a fuss would he make*

*that we'd all agree. that we'd all agree.*

[14] i *Thus had they parted the previous evening.*

ii *They were bound by time ... yet were they simultaneously timeless.*

iii *Tourism will continue to grow ... Particularly is this the case in Queensland,* ...

iv *Many another poem could I speak of which sang itself into my heart.*

v *The more wives he had, the more children could he beget.*

vi *Well did I remember the crisis of emotion into which he was plunged that night.*

[15] a. *If he had seen the incident he'd* b. *Had he seen the incident he'd*

*have reported it to the police.* *have reported it to the police.*

[16] *May you both enjoy the long and happy retirement that you so richly deserve.*

[17] untriggered triggered

**obligatory optional**

Closed interrogatives Open interrogatives Exclamatives

Conditional inversion Initial negative Other fronted elements

Optative *may* Initial *only*

Initial *so*/*such*

[18] i *Where is the auditor's report?* [subjectauxiliary inversion]

ii *More damaging is the auditor's report.* [subject postposing]

[19] i a. *How often had he regretted his impetuosity!* ) [subjectauxiliary inversion]

b. *So cold had it been that they had called off the match.* )

ii a. *How ungracious had been their response!* ) [subject postposing]

b. *So wet had been the pitch that they'd abandoned play.* )

[20] i *Is* [*he the president and his daughter the secretary*]*?*

ii *Have* [*you loved me and I been so inconsiderate as to make myself unworthy of your love*]*?*

[21] unemphatic polarity emphatic polarity

i a. *I will* / *I'll be there.* b. *That's not true:* *I will be there.*

ii a. *She moved the picture.* b. *She did move the picture: I saw her*.

[22] i *You did promise I heard you.* [emphasis on positive polarity]

ii *You promised I heard you.* [emphasis on lexical content]

[23] i *Kim's the one who did make a donation.*

ii *He didn't win, but he did come in the first half dozen.*

iii *I do think you could be more tolerant. I am pleased you can join us.*

[24] i *He thinks they are cheating, but they are not / aren't.*

ii *You're wrong: I did not* / *didn't move it*.

iii *He never did understand how she felt.*

[25] full version reduced version

i a. *Pat* [*can help him too*]*.* b. *I can help him and Pat* [*can \_\_ too*]*.*

ii a. *Pat* [*is in debt as well*]*.* b. *I'm in debt and Pat* [*is \_\_ as well*]*.*

[26] i *Kim has seen the report and I think Pat has \_\_ too.* [old-verb stranding]

ii *I'll help you if I can \_\_.* [new-verb stranding]

[27] i *He is to present a paper in the morning session and I am \_\_ too.* [old]

ii \**I didn't bother to phone the results to her because I knew Kim was \_\_.* [new]

[28] i a. A: *Would you rather stay at home?* B: *Yes, I would \_\_.* [old]

b. A: *Do you want to stay at home?* B: *Yes, I'd rather \_\_.* [new]

ii a. A: *Have you got a pen?* B: *Yes, I have \_\_.* [old]

b. A: *Do you need a pen?* B: \**No, I've got \_\_.* [new]

[29] i *I don't think she has seen it, but she may have ­­\_\_.* [plain form]

ii *This one needs to be repaired; the other already has been \_\_.* [past participle]

iii %*He said I was being unfair, but I don't think I was being \_\_.* [gerund-participle]

[30] i *I want to go and Pat wants to \_\_ as well.*

ii \**I advise you not to go; to \_\_ would be very dangerous.*

[31] version without ***do*** version with ***do***

i a. \**I hated it and Pat hated too.* b. *I hated it and Pat did too.*

ii a. *I am well and Pat is too.* b. \**I am well and Pat does too.*

[32] version without ***do*** version with ***do***

i a. *I've seen it; Pat may have too.* b. %*I've seen it; Pat may have done too.*

ii a. *I haven't read it but I will soon.* b. %*I haven't read it but I will do soon.*

[33] i *The second version was no better than* [*the first*]*.* [no pro-form]

ii *The second version was no better than* [*the first one*]*.* [*one* as pro-form]

[34] i a. A: *Was he ill?* B: *No, he was not* / *wasn't \_\_.* ) [primary verb negation]

b. A: *Did he go?* B: *No, he did not* / *didn't \_\_.* )

ii a. *Kim can't help her; neither can I \_\_.* ) [subjectauxiliary inversion]

b. *No one else complained, so why did you \_\_?*  )

iii a. *They say I can't read it, but I can \_\_.* ) [emphatic polarity]

b. *He won't believe I wrote it, but I did \_\_.*)

c. %*He won't believe I wrote it, but I did do.*)

[35] lexical verb auxiliary verb

i a. *He always looks miserable.* b. *He is always miserable.*

ii a. *They probably go by bus.* b. *They have probably gone by bus.*

[36] lexical verb auxiliary verb

i a. *All the players took a card.* b. *All the players had taken a card.*

ii a.  *The players all took a card.* b. *The dogs all had taken a card.*

iii a. \**The players took all a card.* b. *The dogs had all taken a card.*

[37] core uses non-core uses

i a. *He isn't telling the truth.* b. *He isn't honest.*

ii a. *I haven't bought it.* b. %*I haven't any money.*

iii a. *Would you rather go alone?* b. *Would you rather I didn't tell her?*

iv a. *They can't resist it.* b. [no non-core use]

[38] *She is writing a novel.*

[39] *She promised* [*not to forget* [*to arrange* [*to collect the key*]]].

[40] i Auxiliary ***do*** cannot combine with any other auxiliary (including the non-core ones): \**He doesn't have read it*, \**Did she be working?* The only exception is the imperative, as in *Don't be making so much noise when your father comes home*.

ii The modals are mutually exclusive. Except in coordination, they cannot combine: \**He will can swim soon*, \**She may will help you*

iii Aspectual ***use*** is likewise mutually exclusive with the modals: \**He wouldn't use to go by bus*, \**He used to can speak French.*

[41] i a. *She could have won first prize.* b. \**She had could win first prize.*

ii a. *He has been reading my mail.* b. \**He is having read my mail.*

[42] I II III IV

modal ***can***/***will***/... perfect ***have*** progressive ***be*** passive ***be***

aspectual ***use***

[43] modal perfect progressive passive lexical verb

i *takes*

ii *is taken*

iii  *is taking*

iv *is being taken*

v *has taken*

vi *has been taken*

vii *has been taking*

viii *has been being taken*

ix *will take*

x *will be taken*

xi *will be taking*

xii *will be being taken*

xiii *will have taken*

xiv *will have been taken*

xv *will have been taking*

xvi *will have been being taken*

[44] i auxiliary form of next verb examples

ii modal plain form will *sing* may *be seen* must *have eaten*

iii perfect past participle has *sung* had *been seen must* have *eaten*

iv progressive gerund-participle is *singing* was *being seen has* been *eating*

v passive past participle was *sung was* being *seen has* been *eaten*

[45] i a. \**I'd like to can swim.* b. *I'd like to be able to swim.*

ii a. \**I will can swim soon.* b. *I will be able to swim soon.*

iii a. \**Can swim by June!* b. *Be able to swim by June!*

iv a. \**I regret not canning swim.* b. *I regret not being able to swim.*

v a. \**I have could swim for six years.* b. *I have been able to swim for six years.*

[46] i *If you came tomorrow,*[*you could help with the flowers*]*.*

ii \**If you came tomorrow,* [*you were able to help with the flowers*]*.*

[47] i a. *I wish* [*you could move it*]*.* b. *I wish* [*you were able to move it*]*.*

ii a. *Could you move it?* b. *Were you able to move it?*

[48] auxiliary properties

[A] Primary verb negation  *It will not work.*

[B] Subjectauxiliary inversion  *Will it rain?*

[C] Emphatic polarity  *I will help you.*

[D] Stranding  *He won't attend, but I will \_\_.*

[E] No substitution by pro-verb ***do*** \**Ed will go and I do too.* (I will go)

[F] Precede adverb/quantifier  *They will probably*/*all accept.*

[G] Negative forms *It won't help.*

[H] Reduced forms *She'll be here soon.*

[49] modal auxiliary properties

[I] Only primary forms \**It's expected to will finish soon.*

[J] No agreement  *She will*/\**wills win.*

[K] Only bare infinitival complement  *It* *will be over*; \**It will to be over.*

[L] Can occur in remote apodosis  *If it weren't for her I would give up.*

[M] Modally remote preterite in main clause *I would ask you to treat it seriously.*

[50] i *She would rather* [*not go first*]*.*

ii *She would not* / *wouldn't rather* [*go first*]*.*

iii *Wouldn't she* / *Would she not rather* [*go first*]*?*

[51] i A. *Ought we to invite them both?* B. *Yes, I think we ought \_\_.* [old]

ii ?*He's considering telling the police, but I don't think he ought \_\_.* [new]

[52] modal auxiliary lexical verb

i a. *He needn't*/*daren't tell her.* b. *He doesn't need*/*dare to tell her.*

ii a. *Need*/*Dare he tell her?* b. *Does he need*/*dare to tell her?*

iii a. *No one need*/*dare go out alone.* b. *No one needs*/*dares to go out alone.*

[53] i \**I regret that the Senate need*/*dare take such action.* [modal auxiliary]

ii *I regret that the Senate needs*/*dares to take such action.* [lexical verb]

[54] i *With a bold arm he dared once more to obstruct them.* [lexical]

ii *He dared not obstruct them.* [auxiliary]

[55] *She has eaten it. She hasn't eaten it. Has she eaten it?*

[56] i *He had a swim. He didn't have a swim. Did he have a swim?*

ii *He had it painted. He didn't have it painted. Did he have it painted?*

[57] i a. *She has a swim every day.* b. \**She has got a swim every day.*  [dynamic]

ii a. *She has a swimming-pool.* b. *She has got a swimming-pool.* )[stative]

iii a. *She has to swim each day.* b. *She has got to swim each day.* )

[58] i a. *I have enough tea.* ( *I don't have enough tea. Do I have enough tea?*

( %*I haven't enough tea.* %*Have I enough tea?*

b. *I have got enough tea. I haven't got enough tea. Have I got enough tea?*

ii a. *I have to read it all.* ( *I don't have to read it all. Do I have to read it all?*

( %*I haven't to read it all.* %*Have I to read it all?*

b. *I have got to read it all. I haven't got to read it all.*  *Have I got to read it all?*

[59] ***have*** *got* ***have***

i Informal Stylistically neutral

ii Characteristically BrE

iii Usually present tense of ***have*** All inflectional forms of ***have***

iv Excludes habitual reading Non-habitual or habitual

[60] i *I've got to mow the lawn.* [single obligation]

ii *I have to mow the lawn.* [single or habitual obligation]

[61] *I had better tell them. I hadn't better tell them. Had I better tell them?*

[62] i *She was a lawyer.* [copula ***be***]

ii *She was sleeping peacefully.* [progressive ***be***]

iii *They were seen by the security guard.* [passive ***be***]

iv *You are not to tell anyone.* [quasi-modal ***be***]

v *She has been to Paris twice already.* [motional ***be***]

vi *Why don't you be more tolerant?* [lexical ***be***]

[63] i a. *Why don't you be more tolerant?* b. *Why doesn't he be more tolerant?*

ii a. *If you don't be quick you'll lose.* b. *If he doesn't be quick he'll lose.*

iii a.  ?*If you be quick you'll win.* b. \**If he be*/*bes quick he'll win.*

[64] i *Do you like it?* *I don't understand*. *She does love him.* [auxiliary ***do***]

ii *I did my best.* *He's doing the washing.* *What can we do?* [lexical ***do***]

[65] i a. %*He usedn't to like it*. b. %*Used he to live alone?* [auxiliary]

ii a. *He didn't use to like it*. b. *Did he use to live alone?* [lexical verb]

[66] i \**He claims neither of us used to reply but we used to.* [emphatic polarity]

ii \**Kim used to like it and I used \_\_ as well.* [verb stranding]

[1] System Terms Marking Example

i Primary tense Preterite preterite inflection *went*

Present present tense inflection *goes*

ii Secondary tense Perfect ***have*** (+ past participle) *has gone*

Non-perfect [unmarked] *goes*

iii Aspect Progressive ***be*** (+ gerund-participle) *is going*

Non-progressive [unmarked] *goes*

iv Mood Modal modal aux (+ plain form) *can go*

Non-modal [unmarked] *goes*

[2] i a. *She went to school.* b. *She goes to school.* [preterite vs present]

ii a. *He may have known her.* b. *He may know her.* [perfect vs non-perfect]

[3] present preterite

non-progressive *She goes to school.* *She went to school.*

progressive *She is going to school.* *She was going to school.*

[4] i *She goes to school.* [non-modal (unmarked)]

ii *She may*/*must go to school.* [modal]

[5] Form Characteristic Meaning

Tense Time

Aspect Aspectuality

Mood Modality

[6] \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Processes [durative] Achievements [punctual]

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_|\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

[7] i *The flag is red.*  *He likes her.*  *They believed in God.* [states]

ii  *He's playing golf. He read to them.*  *I had walked in the park.* [activities]

iii  *He's writing a note. He read the note*.  *I had walked home.* [accomplishments]

iv  *I declare the meeting closed.*  *I found the key.*  *He had died.* [achievements]

[8] i  *I was born on Good Friday*.  *The President has resigned.* [singulary]

ii  *He went with her a few times*.  *She usually cycles to work.* ) [multiple]

iii  *She cycles to work*.  *He was winking at me.* )

[9] i \**The flag is being red.* [state]

ii  *He is playing tennis.* [occurrence]

[10] i a. *The flag was red.* b. *The flag is red.* [state]

ii a. *She married Tom.* b. *She marries Tom.* [occurrence]

[11] i  *At midnight / When he left she was still at her desk.* [state]

ii  *At midnight / When he left she made herself an omelette.* ) [occurrence]

iii  *At midnight / When he left she was making herself an omelette.* )

[12] i \**What she did next was know German.* [state]

ii  *What she did next was learn German.* [occurrence]

[13] i *She's writing a note.* [telic: accomplishment]

ii *She's writing notes.* [atelic: activity]

[14] i *He began to work* / *write a letter*.  *He stopped snoring* / *reading it.* [processes]

ii \**He began to reach the summit*. \**He stopped finding the key.* [achievements]

[15] i *He stopped/finished painting the house.* [accomplishment]

ii *He stopped/finished talking.* [activity]

[16] i *I was working.* [activity]

ii  *I was writing a novel.* [accomplishment]

iii  ?*I was recognising her.* [achievement]

[17] i  *I was working* entails that I worked. [activity]

ii  *I was writing a novel* does not entail that I wrote a novel, [accomplishment]

but strongly implicates that I had not (yet) written the novel.

iii  *He was dying* implicates that he would subsequently [extendable achievement]

die and entails that he had not (yet) died.

[18] i a. \**He reached the summit for an hour.* [achievement]

b. \**He was dying for an hour.* [extendable achievement]

c. *He played tennis for an hour* / \**in an hour.* [activity]

d. *He walked a mile in an hour* / \**for an hour.* [accomplishment]

ii a. *It took him an hour to reach the summit* / *die.* [achievements]

b. \**It took him an hour to play tennis.* [activity]

c. *It took him an hour to walk a mile.* [accomplishment]

iii a. *He reached the summit in an hour.* [duration of preceding activity]

b. *He arrived home* / *went to Ed's for two days.* [duration of ensuing state]

[19] i *He read the book in an hour.* [accomplishment]

ii *He read the book for an hour.* [activity]

[20] i *She knocked at the door* [sc. more than once]. [iterative]

ii *She saw him twice* / *several times last week.* [repeated]

iii *She usually mows the lawn herself.* [serial]

[21] i *She usually knows the answer to his questions.* [states]

ii *She usually gets up at six.* [achievements]

iii *She usually mows the lawn herself*. [accomplishments]

iv *She usually plays tennis at the week-end.* [activities]

[22] i *He died last week*.  *I'll write again soon*.  *He reigned for a year.* [perfective]

ii *He lives in Bonn*.  *He often cycles to work*.  *He is working.* [imperfective]

[23] i *He played golf on Wednesday.* [perfective]

ii *Even in those days he played golf every Wednesday.* [imperfective]

[1] i *He died of lung cancer.* [past time]

ii *I promise to let you have it back tomorrow.* [present time]

iii *If you see her tomorrow give her my best regards.* [future time]

[2] i Past time Tr anterior to To Tr < To

ii Present time Tr simultaneous with To Tr = To

iii Future time Tr posterior to To Tr > To

[3] i *He died of lung cancer.* [Tr coextensive with Tsit]

ii *I already knew how to do it.* [Tr included within Tsit]

[4] i *I am writing this letter while the boys are at school.* [To is time of encoding]

ii *You are now leaving West Berlin.* [a written notice] [To is time of decoding]

[5] i *If she beats him he'll claim she cheated.* [non-deictic past]

ii *If you eat any more you'll say you don't want any tea.* [non-deictic present]

[6] i Tsit time of situation

ii Tr time referred to identified with Tsit when aspectuality is perfective

iii Td deictic time normally the time of utterance

iv To time of orientation identified as Td in the default case

[7] i *I promise to let you have it back tomorrow.* (=[1ii]) [occurrence]

ii *I live in Berlin.* [state]

[8] i *She has a headache*. *She is Austrian*. *France is a republic.* [limited]

ii *The sun rises in the east*. *Two plus two is four*. *God is omnipotent.* [unlimited]

[9]  *I do `The Times' crossword.*

[10]  *I beg you not to tell anyone*. *I advise you to accept*. *I object strongly to that proposal*. *Passengers on Flight QF312 are requested to proceed to Gate 4.*

[11] i *Adams steps forward, tries to drive, he's bowled!*

ii *I add two cups of flour and fold in gently.*

iii *We begin by calculating the correction factor, CF:* [calculation given] *and continue by calculating the various sums of squares:* [calculations given] ...

[12]  *There it goes*; *Here comes the bus*; *Up he goes*; *Down she falls.*

[13] i *Hugo walks out on Darcy, Harry defies government orders and operates on Jenny Pope, and Tom goes on a wild goose chase to rescue Valmai Winters.*

ii *Doolittle. Afternoon, gentlemen. Afternoon, maam.* [*He touches his hat to Mrs Pearce, who disdains the salutation and goes out. He winks at Higgins, thinking him probably a fellow sufferer from Mrs Pearce's difficult disposition, and follows her.*]

[14] i *Describing individuals coping with ordinary life and social pressures, she* [Jane Austen] *uses a sharp satiric wit to expose follies, hypocrisies and false truths.*

ii *That's not exactly what the Bible says.*

iii *Rubens is a master of those parts of his art which act immediately on the senses, especially in the portrayal of the tumult and energy of human action in full power and emotion.*

[15] i *David Boon (above) is startled into belated action after Indian wicket-keeper Chandra Pandit threw down his stumps at the non-striker's end*;

ii *Aboriginal protesters occupy part of the old Parliament House in Canberra yesterday.*

[16]  *1434 Cosimo dei Medici begins his family's control of Florence.*

*1435 Congress of Arras: Burgundians withdraw support from England, in favour of*

*France.*

*1438 Albert I becomes Emperor – the first Habsburg Emperor.*

[17] *There was I playing so well even I couldn't believe it and along comes this kid and keeps me off the table for three frames!*

[18] i *UN aid reaches the stricken Bosnian town of Srebrenica.*

ii *Probe clears Speaker over bike payout.*  *Ailing pensioner gets Govt death notice.*

[19] i *Your mother tells me you're off to Paris tomorrow.*

ii *I hear we're getting some new neighbours.*

[20] i *The next high tide is around 4 this afternoon*. *There is a solar eclipse on Tuesday*. *When is the next full moon?*

ii *The new Kevin Costner film opens at the Eldorado on Saturday*. *When do lectures end this year?* *She is president until next May.*

iii *If he doesn't help me, I'm finished*. *If you don't do better next month you are fired*. *Either he plays according to the rules or he doesn't play at all*. *If I get it for less, do I keep the change?*

[21] i *Australia meets Sweden in the Davis Cup final in December.*

ii *Australia beats Sweden in the Davis Cup final in December.*

[22] i *The new Kevin Costner film is opening at the Eldorado on Saturday.*

ii *Either he plays according to the rules or he is not playing at all.*

[23] i *My mother is arriving tomorrow* / *the following day.*

ii *My mother was arriving tomorrow* / *the following day.*

[24] i *The match now starts next Monday, not Tuesday, as I said in my last letter*.

ii *At that stage the match didn't start till next Tuesday.*

[25] i subordinate main

ii a. *Don't go* *until I am feeling better.* b. *I am feeling better.*

iii a. *I'll be disappointed if we have wet weather.* b. *We have wet weather.*

iv a. *Keep a record of how much you spend.* b. *How much do you spend?*

[26]  *I'm drinking it now, before it goes off*. *We'll leave as soon as it stops raining*. *Clean up before you leave*. *Will you be seeing Kim when you are in Bonn?*

[27]  *She's mad if she goes tomorrow*. *We'll be staying until Friday unless the weather changes*. *It should last till next pay-day provided you're careful*. *Let's assume we are returned with a good majority*. *Suppose he lets you in.* *I'm leaving next week whether the job is finished or not.*

[28] *Anyone who misses tomorrow's meeting is irresponsible*. *A prize will be given to everyone who gets the right answer*. *Keep any letters he sends you.*

[29] *I don't mind what you do.* *Let me know who wins.*

[30]  *I'll be able to do it in less time than it takes them. Next time do as he says.*

[31] *I bet it rains again tomorrow*. *He's hoping she doesn't find out.*

[32] *It is essential that he finishes the job tomorrow*. *I insist that she goes too.*

[33] *If you eat any more you'll say you don't want any tea.* (=[5ii])

[34] i Tr > To/Td as in [2632] [posterior to present To]

ii Tr = future To as in [33] [simultaneous with future To]

[35] i *I'll finish it before you return.*

ii *If you miss her tomorrow, you'll have another chance of seeing her next week.*

iii *Those who pass the test tomorrow will be notified in writing next week.*

iv *I'm quitting at the end of the year whether I pass tomorrow's test or not.*

v *My time for the marathon next year will certainly be worse than it is tomorrow.*

[36] i *I promised to let you have it back tomorrow.* [occurrence]

ii *I lived in Berlin.* [state]

[37] i *I do `The Times' crossword.* (=[9]) [present: serial state]

ii *I did `The Times' crossword.* [past: occurrence or serial state]

[38] i *At that time I lived in Berlin.*

ii *After the War I moved to Germany; I lived in Berlin for three years and then spent a few months in Cologne.*

[39] i  *I wanted to ask your advice.*

ii *I wondered whether I could see you for a few minutes.*

[40] i *Originally entries closed tomorrow, but they've decided to allow another week*.

ii *I was leaving for Sydney the next day so couldn't spend much time with them*.

[41] i *If you don't buy it you will soon regret that you missed such a bargain.*

ii *If you don't buy it you will soon envy the one who did.*

[1] i *He wrote it last week.* [preterite]

ii *He is believed* [*to have written it last week*]*.* [perfect tense]

[2] i *He was believed* [*to have written it the previous week*]*.* [Tr < past To]

ii *He is believed* [*to have written it last week*]*.* (=[42ii]) [Tr < present To]

iii *He hopes* [*to have written it by next week*]*.* [Tr < future To]

[3] i *At that time I had written two chapters.* [preterite: T < T; perfect: T < T]

ii *Now I have written four chapters.* [present: T = T; perfect: T < T]

[4] i preterite perfect: *had written* T < T/T < T/Td

writing intermediate time now

ii present perfect: *has written* T < T/T = T/Td

writing now

iii simple preterite: *wrote* Tr < To/Td

writing now

[5] non-continuative continuative

(Tr wholly before To) (Tr before and up to To)

i a. *He may have told her last week.* b. *He may have been here ever since.*

ii a. *He told her last week.* b. \**He was here ever since.*

[6] i *She has lived in Berlin ever since she married.* [continuative]

ii *She has lived in Berlin.* [non-continuative]

[7] i *He has lived here* / *visited her regularly ever since they met.*

ii \**He has written another poem* / *found his keys again ever since he came home.*

[8] i *She went to work.* [preterite non-perfect]

ii *When he got up* *she had gone to work.* [preterite perfect]

[9] i *I promise to do it tomorrow.* [present non-perfect]

ii *I have promised to do it tomorrow.* [present perfect]

iii *I promised to do it tomorrow.* [preterite non-perfect]

[10] i *I saw her last week* / *two minutes ago.* [explicit exclusion of now]

ii *Who wrote `Moby Dick'?* [implicit exclusion of now]

[11] i *I've finally finished*.  *We've now walked ten miles.*

ii *This is* (/ *That was*) *the best meal I've had all week.*

iii *His sister has been up Mont Blanc twice.*

[12] i a. *It is better than it has ever been.* b. *It's better than it was.*

ii a. *Have you seen Jim?* b. *Did you see Jim?*

[13] i a. *He has got up at 5 o'clock.* b. *He got up at 5 o'clock.*

ii a. *We've already discussed it yesterday.* b. *We discussed it yesterday.*

[14] i *She has broken her leg*.  *He has closed the door*.  *They've gone away.*

ii *She's been to the bank*.  *She has run ten kilometres.*

iii *I've tried to phone her, but she's not answering.*

[15] i *It has been a bad start to the year, with two fatal road accidents overnight.*

ii *I've discovered how to mend the fuse.*

iii *She has recently*/*just been to Paris.*

[16] i a. *He has lost his key so he can't get in his room.* [present perfect]

b. *He had lost his key so he couldn't get in his room.* [preterite perfect]

c. *He seems to have lost his key so he can't get in his room.* [non-finite perfect]

ii a. *He lost his key while he was playing football.* [simple preterite]

b. *He had lost his key while he was playing football.* [preterite perfect]

c. *He seems to have lost his key while he was playing football.* [non-finite perfect]

[17] i *She left after* / *as soon as* / *before he had spoken to her.* [perfect]

ii *She left after* / *as soon as* / *before he spoke to her.* [non-perfect]

[18] i *Every time I've seen them, they've been drinking.* [ambiguous]

ii *Every time I see them, they've been drinking.* [unambiguous]

[19] i *I should*/*would have liked to meet her.* [default version]

ii *I should*/*would like to have met her.* [lowered *have*]

iii *I should*/*would have liked to have met her.* [pleonastic *have*]

[1] preterite: present time present tense: present time

i a. *I wish he was here.* b. *I'm glad he is here.*

ii a. *If he was here, he'd be upstairs.* b. *If he is here, he'll be upstairs.*

[2] preterite: future time present tense: future time

i a. *I'd rather you went tomorrow.* b. *I bet you go tomorrow.*

ii a. *If you went tomorrow, you'd meet Ed.* b. *If you go tomorrow, you'll meet Ed.*

[3] i Subordinate clause: must contain a preterite (or irrealis *were*) expressing modal remoteness.

ii Matrix clause: must contain a modal auxiliary, in the preterite if possible.[[1]](#footnote-1)

[4] i *If you see Jill, tell her I'm waiting to hear from her.*

ii *If it rains, we're going to take a taxi.*

iii *If they are here, they're in the kitchen.*

[5] preterite perfect: past time simple preterite: past time

i a. *I wish I had accepted her offer.* b. *I'm glad I accepted her offer.*

ii a. *If it had come yesterday he would* b. *If it came yesterday he will surely.*

*surely have told her told her*

[6] i a. *If they are still alive* *they will be horrified*. [open: present time]

b. *If they were alive now* *they would be horrified*. [remote]

c. *If they had been alive now* *they would have been horrified*. [doubly remote]

ii a. *If they go tomorrow* *they will meet her son*. [open: future time]

b. *If they went tomorrow* *they would meet her son*. [remote]

c. *If they had gone tomorrow* *they would have met her son*. [doubly remote]

[7] i a. *I wish they were here now.* [remote: present time]

b. *I wish they had been here now.* [doubly remote]

ii a. *I'd rather you went tomorrow.* [remote: future time]

b. *I'd rather you had gone tomorrow.* [doubly remote]

[8]  *If she was*/*were to return now, we would be in real trouble.*

Instead of an ordinary preterite perfect, a non-standard `double perfect' is often found:

[9] i !*If it had've come yesterday he would surely have told her.*

ii !*I wish he hadn't've left.*

[10] i *I have too many commitments.* [original utterance: present tense]

ii *Jill said she had too many commitments.* [backshifted report: preterite]

[11] i *If he knew she had too many commitments, he would do something about it.*

ii *I wish he realised that she had too many commitments.*

[12] i *We knew we must leave by noon yesterday to have any chance of catching her.*

ii *She said I ought to invite them both, but I didn't take her advice.*

[13] i The **tense** of the matrix clause is past.

ii The **time** of the matrix clause situation is past.

[14] *I have never said she had too many commitments.*

[15] i *I wish he realised that she had too many commitments.*  [satisfies [13i]]

ii *I remember telling him that she had too many commitments.* [satisfies [13ii]]

[16] i *I had too many commitments.* [original utterance: simple preterite]

ii *Jill said she had had too many commitments* [backshifted: preterite perfect]

[17] i *She had too many commitments.* [ordinary preterite]

ii *Jill said she had too many commitments.* (=[10ii]) [backshifted preterite]

[18] i Ordinary preterite ([17i]) (I) Tr < To (II) To is non-past

ii Backshifted preterite ([17ii]) (I) Tr = To (II) To is past

[19] Backshifted preterite + perfect ([16ii]) (I) Tr < To (II) To is past

[20] Backshifted preterite ([15i]) (I) Tr = To (II) To is present

[21] i *This meant that Jill had too many commitments.*

ii *That Jill had too many commitments was undeniable.*

[22] i *Would she be home before he left, she wondered.*

ii *Max was getting more and more anxious. What could have happened to her? Would she be home before he left? Ought he to contact her mother?*

[23] i *Jill said she had too many commitments.* [backshifted: preterite]

ii *Jill said she has too many commitments.* [non-backshifted: present tense]

[24] original backshifted non-backshifted

i *I am ill. She said that she was ill. She said that she is ill.*

ii *I broke it. She said that she had broken it. She said that she broke it.*

iii *I have seen it. She said that she had seen it. She said that she has seen it.*

iv *I had left. She said that she had left.*

[25] i *I am leaving before he returns.* [original utterance]

ii *She said she was leaving before he returned.* [backshifted + backshifted]

iii *She said she was leaving before he returns.* [backshifted + non-backshifted]

iv *She said she is leaving before he returns.* [non-backshifted + non-backshifted]

[26] It must be reasonable to assume that the temporal relation between the situation and the reporter's Td is the same as that between the situation and the original Td.

[27] i *Jill said she had*/*has a weak heart.*

ii *Jill said she had*/*has a headache.*

iii *Jill said the payment was*/*is due next week.*

iv *Jill said the payment was*/*is due on Tuesday.*

[28] i *She said she doesn't need it, so I'll let Bill have it.* [accepted: non-backshifted]

ii *She said there was plenty left, but there's hardly any.* [rejected: backshifted]

[29] i *She said she was leaving at the week-end.* [backshifted]

ii *She said she's leaving at the week-end.* [deictic]

[30] *I thought it was mine.* [backshifted]

[31] i *She said she couldn't afford it.* [simple preterite report: backshifted]

ii *She has said she can't afford it.* [present perfect report: non-backshifted]

[32] i *She asked me where I was* / *had been born.*

ii *She said she wrote* / *had written it herself.*

iii *She said she loved* / *had loved him when she was at college.*

iv *She said she loved* / *had loved him.*

[1] i *I remembered* [*going to Sydney at Christmas*]*.* [Tr < Tm]

ii *I enjoyed* [*going to Sydney at Christmas*]*.* [Tr = Tm]

iii *I intended* [*going to Sydney at Christmas*]*.* [Tr > Tm]

[2] i Class 1: anterior *forget*1 *recall recollect remember*1

ii Class 2: anterior or simultaneous *admit deny regret resent*

iii Class 3: simultaneous *begin believe like seem*

iv Class 4: simultaneous or posterior *may must need will*

v Class 5: posterior *aim intend propose want*

[3] i Class 1 *I remember telling you about it.* ) [Tr < Tm]

ii Class 2 a. *He resents her taking the car while he was out.* )

b. *He resents not having access to his own file.* ) [Tr = Tm]

iii Class 3 *She is believed to be in hiding.* )

iv Class 4 a. *She may be his sister.* )

b. *She may abdicate.* ) [Tr > Tm]

v Class 5 *She wants to finish it when you return.* )

[4] i *I do `The Times' crossword.* (=[9] of 4) [present habitual]

ii *He seems to do `The Times' crossword.* [present habitual]

iii *He may do `The Times' crossword.* [present habitual or future]

[5] i *I can't understand them leaving tomorrow.*

ii *I desperately want this card to be an ace.*

[6] i *He resents* [*her having taken the car while he was out*]*.* ) [Tr < To; To = Tm]

ii *She is believed* [*to have been in hiding*]*.* )

iii *She wants* [*to have finished it when you return*]*.* [Tr < To; To > Tm]

[7] i *Just about anyone living in the area at that time is at risk.* [Tr < Td]

ii *The guy sitting next to your wife was on television last night.* [Tr = Td]

iii *Anyone misbehaving at tonight's meeting won't be invited next week.* [Tr > Td]

[8] i *Those arrested yesterday will appear in court this afternoon.* [Tr < Td]

ii *The allegations contained in this document will be strenuously denied.* [Tr = Td]

iii *Proposals submitted after today won't be considered till next month.* [Tr > Td]

[9] i *She was the only one to talk to him.* [Tr = Tm]

ii *She was looking for someone to talk to.* [Tr > Tm]

[1] i The situation is presented as in progress, ongoing, at or throughout Tr.

ii The situation is viewed imperfectively.

iii Tr is a mid-interval within Tsit. [implicature]

iv The situation is presented as durative.

v The situation is presented as dynamic.

vi The situation is presented as having limited duration. [implicature]

[2] i *He was reading the letter when the phone rang.*

ii *They were talking about it over lunch.*

iii *I am reading `Middlemarch' at the moment.*

[3] i *When he arrived she phoned the police.* [perfective]

ii *When he arrived she was phoning the police.* [imperfective]

[4] i *His daughter mows the lawn.* [salient reading: serial state]

ii *His daughter is mowing the lawn.* [salient reading: single occurrence]

[5] i a. *She walked five miles.* b. *She was walking five miles.*

ii a. *She wrote two novels.* b. *She was writing two novels.*

[6] i a. *She wrote a novel.* b. *She was writing a novel.*

ii a. *He has learnt to swim.* b. *He has been learning to swim.*

[7] i *From the moment I arrived he was trying to provoke me.*

ii *He was watching TV until the power went off.*

iii *Between 10 and 11 I was working in the library.*

iv *From after dinner until nearly midnight I was filling in my tax return.*

[8] *When I said `the boss' I was referring to you.*

[9] i a. *She nodded.* b. *She was nodding.*

ii a. *The train arrived.* b. *The train was arriving.*

[10] i *The accident occurred as she was cleaning the windows.*

ii *I was doing some work in the garden when the police arrived.*

[11] i *She was reading while he watched TV.* [progressive + non-progressive]

ii *She read while he was watching TV.* [non-progressive + progressive]

iii *She was reading while he was watching TV.* [progressive + progressive]

iv *She read while he watched TV.* [non-progressive + non-progressive]

[12] i a. *He always loses his temper.* b. *He's always losing his temper.*

ii a. *They always meet at the market.* b. *They're always meeting at the market.*

[13] *When I left, Kim had her head buried in a book but Ed was watching TV.*

[14] i *He is being tactful.* [agentive activity]

ii *He's making more and more* / *fewer and fewer mistakes.* [waxing/waning]

iii *She is cycling to work this week.* [temporary state]

[15] i a. *He wears a wig.* b. *He is wearing a wig.*

ii a. *He has a wig on.* b. \**He is having a wig on.*

[16] i a. *He suffers from bronchitis.* b. *He is suffering from bronchitis.*

ii a. *He is ill with bronchitis.* b. \**He is being ill with bronchitis.*

[17] production experience acquisition

i *It looked square. I could see it. I looked at it.*

ii *It sounded shrill. I could hear it. I listened to it.*

iii *It felt hard. I could feel it. I felt it.*

iv *It smelt horrible. I could smell it. I smelt it.*

v *It tasted sweet. I could taste it. I tasted it.*

[18] *I believe it's illegal*.  *I fear you've made a mistake*.  *She knows where they are*.  *He loves you*.  *I suppose it's too late.*

[19] i *I'm thinking we ought to accept*.  *She's regretting she stayed behind.*

ii *Don't interrupt me when I'm thinking*.  *They're loving every minute of it.*

iii *You're forgetting you said you'd help*.  *He's not realising what he's saying.*

iv *I'm hoping you can help me*.  *He was wondering if he could ask your advice.*

[20] i *The church stands at the top of the hill*.  *The village lay beside the gorge.*

ii *He is standing near the entrance*.  *They were lying on the beach.*

[21] i a. *The sun sets at five tomorrow.* b. #*The sun is setting at five tomorrow.*

ii a. *I phone her tonight.* b. *I'm phoning her tonight.*

iii a. *She has her operation tomorrow.* b. *She's having her operation tomorrow.*

iv a. *It expires tomorrow* / *in five years* b. *It's expiring tomorrow* / *in five years.*

[22] i *When we get there, they'll probably still be having lunch.* [aspectual meaning]

ii *Will you be going to the shops this afternoon?* [special meaning]

iii *When the meeting ends we'll be flying to Bonn.* [ambiguous]

[1] i a. *He's the one to do the job.* b. *He's the one doing the job.*

ii a. *I want to talk to her.* b. *I enjoy talking to her.*

[2] i *He may not have read it.* [internal negation]

ii *He can't have read it.* [external negation]

iii *He can't not have read it.* [external + internal negation]

[3] i *You mustn't eat it all.* [internal negation]

ii *You needn't eat it all.* [external negation]

[4] necessity possibility

i *He must be guilty.* *He can't be not guilty.* [Nec P]=[not-Poss not-P]

ii *He must be not guilty.* *He can't be guilty.*  [Nec not-P]=[not-Poss P]

iii *He isn't necessarily guilty.* *He may be not guilty.* [not-Nec P]=[Poss not-P]

iv *He isn't necessarily not guilty.* *He may be guilty.* [not-Nec not-P]=[Poss P]

[5] i a. *You must come in immediately.* b. *You must have one of these cakes.*

ii a. *You may take your ties off.* b. *You may leave now.*

[6] i *The meeting must be over by now.* [strong]

ii *The meeting should be over by now.* [medium]

iii *The meeting may be over by now.* [weak]

[7] i *He isn't likely to be ready.*  [external negation]

ii *He is likely not to be ready.* [internal negation]

[8] strong weak

i a. *He must have been delayed.* b. *He may have been delayed.* [epistemic]

ii a. *You must pull your socks up.* b. *You may stay if you wish.* [deontic]

iii a. *You must be very tactful.* b. *He may sleep downstairs.* [ambiguous]

[9] i *She can stay as long as she likes.* [deontic]

ii *She can easily beat everyone else in the club.* [dynamic]

iii *She can speak French.* [ambiguous]

[10] unmodalised high degree modality

i a. *They know her.* b. *They may know her.*

ii a. *Your passport is in the drawer.* b. *Your passport should be in the drawer.*

iii a. *The letter arrived yesterday.* b. *The letter will have arrived yesterday.*

[11] unmodalised low degree modality

i a. *Strange as it seems, I believe you.* b. *Strange as it may seem, I believe you.*

ii a. *It's odd that he is so late.* b. *It's odd that he should be so late.*

iii a. *She is one year old tomorrow.* b. *She will be one year old tomorrow.*

[12] i *The meeting must surely be over by now.* [strong]

ii *The meeting should probably be over by now.* [medium]

iii *The meeting may possibly be over by now.* [weak]

[13] i a. *He mustn't have done it deliberately.* [internal negation: Nec not-P]

b. *He can't have done it deliberately.* [external negation: not-Poss P]

ii a. *He needn't have done it deliberately.* [external negation: not-Nec P]

b. *He may not have done it deliberately.* [internal negation: Poss not-P]

[14] i A: *What has happened to Ed?* B: *He must have overslept.* [subjective]

ii *If I'm older than Ed and Ed is older than Jo, I must be older than Jo.* [objective]

[15] i *He may have left it downstairs: I'll just go and see*. [subjective]

ii *He may have misled Parliament: there's going to be an inquiry.* [objective]

[16] *It may be expensive, but it's worth every penny.* [concessive *may*]

[17] i *It must surely be valid*.  *It must necessarily have involved deception*.

ii *He may perhaps have left already*.  *She may possibly be ill.*

[18] i a. *He may be feeling better tomorrow.* b. *You may do better next time.*

ii a. *He must be feeling better tomorrow.* b. *You must do better next time.*

[19] i a. *You mustn't attend the lectures.* [internal negation: Nec not-P]

b. *You may not* / *can't attend the lectures.* [external negation: not-Poss P]

ii a. *You needn't attend the lectures.* [external negation: not-Nec P]

b.  ?*You may*/*can* *not attend the lectures.* [internal negation: Poss not-P]

[20] i a. *You must clean up this mess at once.*  ) [subjective]

b. *You may*/*can have one more turn.* )

ii a. *We must make an appointment if we want to see the Dean.* ) [objective]

b. *We may*/*can borrow up to six books at a time.* )

[21] i *The most we can expect is a slight cut in the sales-tax.*

ii *You can always say you're too busy.*

[22] i *It can easily be shown that the argument is fallacious.*

ii *Water can still get in.*

[23] i *These animals can be dangerous.*

ii *Poinsettias can be red or yellow.*

[24] i *She can run the marathon in under three hours.* [potential]

ii *I can hear something rattling.* [currently actualised]

[25] i *Ed's a guy who must always be poking his nose into other people's business.*

ii *Now that she has lost her job she must live extremely frugally.*

[26] i *You should* */* *ought to tell your mother.* [deontic]

ii *The next road on the left should* */* *ought to be King Street.* [epistemic]

iii *He should* */* *ought to do better this time.* [ambiguous]

[27] i *She must*/*may have left yesterday.* [epistemic]

ii *She should* / *ought to have left yesterday.* [deontic[[2]](#footnote-2)]

[28] i *It is essential*/*desirable that he should be told.* [mandative]

ii *We invited her husband too, lest he should feel left out.* [adversative]

iii *We invited her husband too, in order that he should not feel left out.*  [purposive]

iv *It's surprising that he should have been so late.* [emotive]

v *If you should experience any difficulty, please let me know.* [conditional]

[29] i *They will have made the decision last week.* [central-epistemic]

ii *She will beat him easily.* [futurity]

iii *If they are here, they'll be upstairs.* [consequence]

[30] [Knock on door] *That will be the plumber.*

[31] *Ed is Tom's father and Tom is Bill's father, so Ed will be Bill's grandfather.*

[32] past time future time

i a. *He was two yesterday.* b. *He will be two tomorrow.*

ii a. *She beat him in under an hour.* b. *She will beat him in under an hour.*

[33] present futurate futurity *will*

i a. *He is two tomorrow.* b. *He will be two tomorrow.*

ii a. *Australia meets Sweden in the* b. *Australia will meet Sweden in the*

*Davis Cup final in December. Davis Cup final in December.*

[34] i *I'll buy one when the price comes* / \**will come down.*

ii *We'll go for a walk as soon as it stops* / \**will stop raining.*

[35] i *If* [*the price comes down in a few months*]*, I'll buy one.* [sc. then]

ii *If* [*the price will come down in a few months*]*, I'm not going to buy one now.*

[36] i a. *If it rained last night* [*the match will have been cancelled*]*.* [past time]

b. *If it rains tonight* [*the match will be cancelled*]*.*  [future time]

ii a. *If he's still in London,* [*he'll be at his mother's*]*.* [sc. now] [present time]

b. *If he's still in London when you arrive,* [*he'll be at his mother's*]*.* [future time]

[37] i *If Ed signed the petition* [*he was* / *will have been the only one of us who did*].

ii *If he's still in London* [*he is* / *will be at his mother's*]*.*

iii *If you're late again tomorrow,* [*you are* / *will be fired*]*.*

[38] i *Kim won't sign the form.*

ii *They have found someone* [*who will stand in for you while you're away*]*.*

iii *I will be back before six.*

[39] i *I will solve this problem.* [stressed modal]

ii *Will you lend me your pen?* [closed interrogative]

iii *I'll wash if* [*you will dry*]*.* [conditional protasis]

[40] i *He will lie in bed all day, reading trashy novels.*

ii *Oil will float on water.*

[41] *You will report back for duty on Friday morning.* [speaker's requirement]

[42] i *The committee shall meet at least three times per year.* [constitutive/regulative]

ii *You shall have your money back tomorrow.* [speaker's guarantee]

iii *Shall I close the window?* [direction-seeking]

[43] i *I shall never understand why she left.* [futurity]

ii *If the rules have changed as much as you suggest we shall* )

*have done most of this work for nothing.* ) [consequence]

iii *I shall do as she says.* [volition]

[44] Traditional prescriptive rule 1st person 2nd/3rd person

i Futurity (so-called future tense) *shall* *will*

ii Volition/determination *will shall*

[45] i *You*/*I had better telephone her.* [deontic]

ii *I daren't tell her.* [dynamic]

[46] i *When my father was attached to a cavalry regiment at Brighton before we moved to Stonehurst, my parents might attend an occasional concert at the Pavillion.*

ii *The completion of the canal increased the ease with which the Mons coal might be sent to Nord.*

[47] i *In those days we could borrow as many books as we wished.* [permission]

ii *The most we could expect was a slight cut in sales tax.* [reasonable/acceptable]

iii *Water could still get in.* [circumstantial possibility]

iv *He could be very tactless at times.* [existential]

v *She could run the marathon in under three hours.* [potential ability]

vi *I could hear something rattling.* [actualised ability]

[48] i *I left early but still couldn't get a seat.* [non-affirmative]

ii \**I left early and could get a good seat*. [affirmative]

[49] i *I had no money on me but he wouldn't lend me any.* [volition]

ii *Whenever he heard her coming he would quickly put out his pipe.* [propensity]

iii *Only a few months later their love would change to hate.* [futurity]

[50] i *I can*/*may*/*will*/*shall see her shortly.* [original utterance: present tense]

ii *I knew I could*/*might*/*would*/*should see her shortly.* [backshifted: preterite]

[51] i a. *I can win if I really try.* b. *I could win if I really tried.*

ii a. *He said I could win if I really tried.* b. *He said I could win if I really tried.*

[52] i *If he pays the fare* [*I can*/*may*/*will*/*shall take a taxi*]*.*  [open: present]

ii *If he paid the fare* [*I could*/*might*/*would*/*should take a taxi*]*.* [remote: preterite]

[53] modal auxiliary + modal auxiliary

i a. *If he's here, he's upstairs.* b. *If he's here he'll be upstairs.* [open]

ii a. \**If he were here, he were upstairs.* b. *If he were here he'd be upstairs.* [remote]

[54] i *If Oswald didn't shoot Kennedy someone else did.* [open; ***will***]

ii *If Oswald didn't shoot Kennedy someone else will have.* [open; + ***will***]

iii *If Oswald hadn't shot Kennedy someone else would have.* [remote; + ***will***]

[55] i *I'm glad you can*/*will join us.* [*be glad* + present]

ii *I wish you could*/*would join us.* [*wish* + preterite]

[56] i a. *He'll be about sixty.* b. *He'd be about sixty.*

ii a. *Can you pass the salt, please.* b. *Could you pass the salt, please.*

iii a. *You may be right.* b. *You might be right.*

[57] i *It might*/*could be described as an act of provocation.* [dynamic]

ii *Might*/*Could I have a little more sugar?* [deontic]

iii *Would you tell them we're here.* [polite request]

iv  *and, I would suggest, it's too expensive anyway.* [indirect performative]

v *I would*/*should like to see him tomorrow.* [tentative version of *want*]

vi *They would appear to have gone without us.* [redoubled qualification]

[58] i *You were mad to drive so fast: you might*/*could have been killed.*

ii *We could*/*might be in Africa.* [knowingly uttered in France]

iii *You might*/*could have cleaned up instead of leaving it to me to do.*

[59] i a. *I shall easily finish before she returns.* [original utterance]

b. *I knew* [*I should*/\**shall easily finish before she returned*]*.* [backshifted report]

ii a. *If they offer me the job I shall certainly accept.* [open conditional]

b. *If they offered me the job I should*/\**shall certainly accept.* [remote conditional]

[60] i a. *It may rain before we get home.* [original utterance]

b. *I thought* [*it might*/%*may rain before we got home*]*.* [report]

ii a. *If you come back tomorrow, you may find him in.* [open conditional]

b. *If you came back tomorrow, you might*/%*may find him in.* [remote conditional]

[61] i *She must have saved him.* [internal perfect]

ii *She could have saved him if she'd tried*. [external perfect]

[62] i *He needn't* / *ought to* / *should* / *might* / *could have told her.* [deontic]

ii *We might*/*could have been in Africa.* [circumstantial possibility]

iii *If he hadn't lied she would*/*might have forgiven him.* [remote apodosis]

iv *I wish I could have persuaded her.* [non-epistemic *could*]

[63] i *If he had stayed in the army he would have become a colonel.* [remote]

ii *If he stayed in the army he will have become a colonel.* [open]

[64] i *He needn't have told her.* [epistemic or deontic]

ii *He might have killed her.* [epistemic or dynamic]

[65] i *He mustn't*/*shouldn't go with them.* [strong/medium: internal negation]

ii *He can't go with them.* [weak: external negation]

[66] i *You have* (*got*) *to come in now.* [deontic]

ii *Now that she has lost her job she has* (*got*) *to live extremely frugally*. [dynamic]

iii *This has* (*got*) *to be the worst restaurant in town.* [epistemic]

[67] i *You are to come in at once.* [deontic necessity]

ii *He is to be left alone.* [passive: strong deontic]

iii *These ideas are to be found throught his later work.* [passive: weak dynamic]

[68] i *There's to be one more meeting.* [present schedule]

ii *The lecture was to be followed by a buffet lunch*. [past schedule]

iii *Only two weeks later he was to have a severe heart attack.* [future in the past]

[69] i *If we are to get there on time we must leave immediately.* [open protasis]

ii *If she was*/*were to come home now, we'd be in real trouble.* [remote protasis]

[70] i a. *You don't need to cut the grass.* b. *You needn't cut the grass.*

ii a. *He didn't need to tell her.* b. *He needn't have told her.* (=[62i])

[71] i *It is necessary* [*that they be told*] / [*for them to be told*]*.* [deontic]

ii *It doesn't necessarily follow that he's lying* [epistemic]

[72] i *You're surely not going to accept his offer.* ) [epistemic]

ii *I certainly enjoyed it*.  *It certainly does belong to her*. )

[73] i *It is probably in the desk drawer. It should probably be in the desk drawer*.

ii *The wet weather is expected to last several days.*

[1] past present future ) [traditional

*took takes will take* ) tense system]

[2] past present

non-future *took takes*

future *would take will take*

[3] present time future time

simple present *That is the plumber. They meet in the final in May.*

*will* + plain form *That will be the plumber. They will meet in the final in May.*

[4] past time present time future time

i *He will have left already. He will be in Paris now. He will see her tomorrow.*

ii *He may have left already. He may be in Paris now. He may see her tomorrow.*

[5] i *Give her my regards.* [imperative]

ii *It is essential* [*that she tell the truth*]*.* [mandative]

iii *The match starts tomorrow.* [main clause present futurate]

iv *If* [*she goes*]*, I'll go too*. [subordinate present]

v *I may*/*will* [*see her tomorrow*]*.* [bare infinitival]

vi *I intend*/*want* [*to see her tomorrow*]*.* [*to*-infinitival]

vii *I intend*/*am* [*seeing her tomorrow*]*.* [gerund-participial]

[6] i *The dog's going to* / *will take the joint.*

ii *The secretary is going to* / *will give you a timetable.*

iii *If you're going to* / ?*will lose your temper, I'm not going to* / *won't play.*

[7] *He was going to* / *would marry his tutor at the end of the year.*

[8] *I have asked her to join us but she's not going to / won't.*

1. `If possible' in [ii] allows for the occurrence in the present tense of those modals like ***must*** which have no preterite form (cf. 6.2.1). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. In this deontic reading the past time applies to the modality: it is a matter of what was (or would have been) right, not of what is right now. Deontic *must* and *may* cannot be used in this way with *have* for past obligation or permission: see 9.8. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)