Aspect annotation automatic rules, updated 3/13/21

Each event goes through the steps in order until it receives an annotation value (in all caps); once an event receives an annotation value, it does not continue on to the next step.

Step #1: Distinguishing verbs, nonverbal predication, and event nominals
Events can be expressed by different morphosyntactic forms; these different forms give different types of clues as to the aspect annotation of the event. In the first step, all events are classified as either verbs, predicate nominals/adjectives/locations, or event nominals.

Verbs:
      *John **hiked** all morning.*
      *After John **hiked** all morning, he **stopped** for lunch at the summit.*
      *John **wanted to reach** the summit by noon.*
      *John, who **wanted to reach** the summit by noon, began **to hike** at 6am.*
      *I used to hate **eating** vegetables.*
Predicate nominals, predicate adjectives, predicate locationals:
      *John **is a hiker**.*
      *John **is tall**.*
      *The cup **is on the table.***
Event nominals:
      *I rejected his **offer**.* = PROCESS
      *The **party** is at 7pm.* = PROCESS
      *The **war** caused the **destruction** of three cities.* = PROCESS
      *It was a large **explosion**.* = PROCESS
      *I like **reading**.* = PROCESS

Events classified as event nominals are annotated as PROCESS.

Events classified as either verbs or predicate nominals, adjectives, or locationals proceed to Step #2.

Step #2: Habitual events
Verbs which occur in the Simple Present construction and the Past Habitual construction are annotated as HABITUAL.

Simple Present:
      *He **bakes** pies.* = HABITUAL
      *She **rides** her bike to work.* = HABITUAL
      *They **vacation** in Taos every winter.* = HABITUAL

Past Habitual:
      *He used to **bake** pies.* = HABITUAL
      *She used to **ride** her bike to work.* = HABITUAL
      *They used to **vacation** in Taos every winter.* = HABITUAL

All events which do not receive an aspect annotation value at this step move on to Step #3.

Step #3a: Nonverbal predication and ability modals
Those events which were classified as predicate nominals, predicate adjectives, or predicate locationals in Step #1, and which have not yet received an annotation value, are annotated as STATE.

>   *John **is a hiker**.* = STATE
>   *John **is tall**.* = STATE
>   *The cup **is on the table.*** = STATE

Ability modals are also annotated with the STATE value.

>   *She is able **to sing** that aria.* = STATE
>   *This car can **go** up to 150 mph.* = STATE

Step #3b: Categorization of verbal lexical items and annotation of states
Those events classified as verbs in Step #1 are categorized based on their VerbNet class. The categories are: State and Process.

>   VN classes categorized as State: want-32.1, long-32.2, try-61.1, intend-61.2, wish-62, allow-64.1, let-64.2, admit-64.3, forbid-64.4, tingle-40.8.2, pain-40.8.1, stimulus_subject-30.4, keep-15.2, support-15.3, contain-15.4, being_dressed-41.3.3, simple_dressing-1.3.1, function-105.2.1, lodge-46, exist-47.1, bulge-47.5.3, meander-47.7, contiguous_location-47.8, terminus-47.9, put_spatial-9.2-1, cling-22.5, entity_specific_modes_being-47.2, light_emission-43.1, smell_emission-43.3, sound_emission-43.2, sound_existence-47.4, substance_emission-43.4-1, swarm-47.5.1-1, animal_sounds-38, carve-21.2-1, modes_of_being_with_motion-47.3, snooze-40.4, body_internal_states-40.6, spatial_configuration-47.6, peer 30.3, see 30.1

>   VN classes categorized as Process: All others.

Verbs in VN classes categorized as State are annotated with the STATE value.

Verbs in VN classes categorized as Process move on to Step #4.

Step #4: Activity annotation
Verbs that occur in the Present Progressive, Present Perfect Progressive and Past Progressive are annotated as ACTIVITY.

>   *He is **washing** the dishes* = ACTIVITY
>   *He has been **washing** the dishes* = ACTIVITY
>   *He was **washing** the dishes* = ACTIVITY

Verbs which occur with inceptive (VN class begin-55.1) and continuative (VN class continue-55.3, sustain-55.6) aspectual auxiliaries are also annotated as ACTIVITY.

*He started **playing** the violin.* = ACTIVITY
*He continued **to play** the violin.* = ACTIVITY

Step #5: Terminative and Completive auxiliaries

Verbs which occur with completive aspectual auxiliaries (VN class complete-55.2) are annotated as PERFORMANCE. Verbs which occur with terminative aspectual auxiliaries (VN class stop-55.4) are annotated as ENDEAVOR.

*She finished **painting** the vase.* = PERFORMANCE
*She stopped **painting** the vase.* = ENDEAVOR

Step #6: Adverbials

Verbs that occur in clauses with container adverbials (*in*) are annotated as PERFORMANCE. Verbs that occur in clauses with durative adverbials (*for*) are annotated as ENDEAVOR.

*He **washed** the dishes in 10 minutes* = PERFORMANCE
*He **washed** the dishes for 10 minutes* = ENDEAVOR

Step #7: Non-result Path

Verbs that occur with non-result paths are annotated as ENDEAVOR.

*They **wandered** around the city.* = ENDEAVOR
*He **walked** along the river.* = ENDEAVOR
*They **drove** past the junction.* = ENDEAVOR

Step #8: Everything else

All events left at this point without an aspect annotation are annotated as PERFORMANCE.