

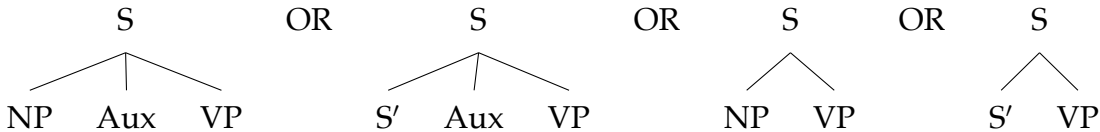
# Ling 102 Section

September 28

Section  
Wednesdays 7:15–8:00  
Boylston 335

Office Hours  
Tuesdays 3:00–4:00  
2 Arrow St Room 423

## English Auxiliary System

- (1) a.  $S \rightarrow \begin{Bmatrix} \text{NP} \\ S' \end{Bmatrix} (\text{Aux}) \text{VP}$   
 b.  $\text{Aux} \rightarrow \left( \begin{Bmatrix} \text{Infinitive} \\ \text{Modal} \end{Bmatrix} \right) (\text{Perfective}) (\text{Progressive})$
- (2) a.   
 b. How many possible trees for Aux can we make based on our rule?

## Tense and Aspect

Perfective and progressive marking in the auxiliary help to represent the **aspect** of a clause.

- (3) a. Utterance Time — the time when a sentence is spoken  
 b. Reference Time — the time with which reference to the event time is evaluated (we can think of this as the time for which the event is relevant / has lasting impact for the sentence)  
 c. Event Time — the time at which an event occurs
- (4) a. Tense: information regarding the relative order of UT and RT  
 b. Aspect: information regarding the relative order of RT and ET

Tense	Aspect
RT < UT Past	ET < RT Perfective
RT = UT Present	ET = RT Progressive
RT > UT Future	ET > RT Prospective

## Placement of Tense

We see that we represent aspect through the use of the auxiliary. Where is tense located?

- (5)
- a. I see the dog vs. I saw the dog.
  - b. I do see the dog vs. I did see the dog.
  - c. I can see the dog vs. I could<sup>?</sup> see the dog.

What about **will**? Can it fit with other modals? Does 'will' represent future tense, or prospective aspect?

## How Many Do's?

How many categories can 'do' fit into? What distinguishes 'do' from other auxiliaries? Look at its meaning/distribution, as well as the morphology it takes.

## Hierarchical Notions of Distance

If syntax does not care about linear order, how may we distinguish between constituents that are 'further away' or 'closer together' than others? Hint: define distance using c-command.

- (6) If A asymmetrically c-commands B and B asymmetrically c-commands C, then B intervenes between A and C, and can said to be closer to A and C than A and C are to one another

