English C1 Advanced
HSLU, Semester 1

Matteo Frongillo

October 21, 2024

Contents

1 Course overview

1.1 Exam overview

- Use of English and Reading: **MEP (30%)**;

- Writing: **MEP (30 %)**;

- Listening: **Semester performance (20%)**;

- Speaking: **Semester performance (20%)**.

2 Past tenses

2.1 Simple tenses

2.1.1 Past simple

Past simple is used for:

- Finished past event at a specific past point in time.

2.2 Continuous tenses

Are focused on ongoing actions at past or present time.

2.2.1 Past continuous

Past continuous is used to:

- Express something was ongoing at a specific past point;
- Focus on an ongoing action in the past that is "crossed" by another past action.

2.3 Perfect tenses

Most often an action stretching over time that started in the past and continues either up until now (present perfect) or up until a past point (past perfect)

2.3.1 Past perfect simple

Past perfect simple is used to:

- Express something happened before another past time;
- Compare two past events.

2.4 Perfect and continuous tenses

2.4.1 Past perfect continuous

Past perfect continuous is used for:

- Past actions in progress up until another past point;
- Past actions in progress that are interrupted or unfinished.

3 Passive forms

Passive is used to say what happened to the subject.

Passive sentences are formed with "to be" in the appropriate tense + the past participle (+ed).

3.1 Impersonal passive

3.1.1 Form

When we use one of these verbs:

believe, claim, report, say, think, understand, know, consider, estimate, expect, be rumoured, be reputed, allege;

we have to structure the sentence as follow:

It +	**"be"** + (required tense)	**reporting verb** + (past participle)	that...

subject +	**"be"** + (required tense)	**reporting verb** + (past participle)	main verb (to-infinitive → present or past)

4 Linking words

5 Inversion

After certain words and phrases the **word order is inverted**. This kind of inversion is mainly found in formal speech and writing.

5.1 Application of the inversion

5.1.1 Negation adverbs

The negative adverbs **never (before/again), rarely, seldom, barely/hardly/scarcely...when/before, no sooner...than, nowhere, little (with a negative meaning)**.

5.1.2 Negation

6 Formal letters

7 Reported speech

7.1 Verb tenses

We usually change the tense of the original verb so that it moves further back in the past. We also change time expressions and pronouns as necessary:

"We spoke to him yesterday", they said.→ They said that they'd spoken to him the day before.

We **do not** change the tense if the situation we are reporting still exists and if the reporting verb is in the present tense:

"She's currently working in London" → He says she's currently working in London.

7.2 Modal verbs in reporting

We usually change modal verbs in reported speech:

- **will → would**;
- **can → could**;
- **may → might**;
- **needn'n → didn't have to**;
- **must → had to**.

We **do not** change modal verbs if the situation we are reporting still exists and if the reporting verb is in the present tense:

"We need to visit oue cousin" → She says we need to visit our cousin.

Modal verbes are often reported using other verbs:

- must, should, ought to → advised, urged;
- let's → suggested.

"You should ask for help" → He advised me to ask for help.

7.3 Reported questions

7.3.1 Reported Yes/No questions

When there is no question word in the direct speech question, we use **if/whether**. The word order is the same as in the statement. The verb tense and other changes are the same as for other types of reported speech:

*"Could I borrow your notes" she asked → She asked / wondered / wanted to know **if / whether she could borrow** my notes.*

7.3.2 Reported wh- questions

The **wh-** word is followed by normal word order (subject + verb). The verb tense and other changes are the same as for other types of reported speech:

*"Why did you leave that job?" She asked him → She asked **him why he had left** that job.*

7.4 Summary reports

We can use some reporting verbs to summarize what was said:

1. *"Don't come back – or else" → They **threatened** us*;
2. *"It was me. I did it" → He **confessed**.*

Some verbs, such as **speak**, **tell** and **thank**, are only used in summary reports, not with direct or indirect speech:

1. *She **spoke** briefly to reporters.*
2. *I **talked** to Kevin about the problem and he **thanked** me.*

We can use reporting verbs such as **boast** or **lie + about** to create a summary report:

1. *He **boasted about** his win*;

2. *He **lied about** how he did it.*

Other verbs used like this include: **complain, explain, inquire, joke, protest, speak, write**.