### The syntax of events

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### The syntax of events

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Forms of the v

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Finite forms
Non-finite forms

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Here be dragons!!

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### No tense

Here be! dragons!!

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Here be dragons!!

Here be crocodiles!!

Here be chocolate cravings!!

Here be politicians!!

Here be liberals!!

Here be conservatives!!

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### Finite and non-finite forms

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Homework 5 / 47

Verb forms can be either finite or non-finite

Finite forms express **tense** 

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Homework 5 / 47

Finite and non-finite forms

Verb forms can be either **finite** or **non-finite** 

Finite forms express tense

e.g. laugh-ed

Non-finite forms do not have tense, e.g. e.g. He loves to laugh/laughing

### Finite forms

Finite forms often have rich inflectional morphology.

	Singular Plural		
First person (refers to speaker)	l talk	We talk	
	Yo hablo	Nosotros hablamos	
Second person (refers to conversational	You <sub>sing.</sub> talk	You <sub>pl.</sub> talk	
partner)	Tu habl as	Vosotros habl ais	
Third person (refers to third party)	He/she/it talk s	They talk	
	El / ella habla	Ellos ellas hablan	

### Finite forms

	Singular	Plural	
First person (refers to speaker)	l talked	We talked	
	Yo habl é	Nosotros hablamos	
Second person (refers to conversational partner)	<b>You<sub>sing.</sub> talked</b> Tu hablaste	<b>You<sub>pl.</sub> talked</b> Vosotros hablastaís	
Third person (refers to third	He/she/it talked	They talked	
party)	El / ella habl ó	Ellos ellas hablaron	

Meanings of TA combs.

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(1) Progressive form, e.g. She is laugh-ing

(2) Perfective form, e.g. She has  $\begin{cases} dropped \\ broken \\ lost \end{cases}$  it

(3) Infinitive form, e.g. You must  $\begin{cases} go now! \\ be quiet! \\ come quickly!! \end{cases}$ 

But these are terrible labels!!

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# Homework 9/47

The progressive form is often called the 'present participle'

The perfective form is often called the 'past participle'

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There is nothing 'past' about the 'past participle'

e.g. By this time next week, I will have eaten all the baked beans

There is nothing 'present' about the 'present participle'

e.g. When I arrived they were dancing salsa

Infinitive	Regular / irregular	Progressive form	Past simple	Perfective form
be	Irr.	be <b>ing</b>	was/were	been
have	Irr.	hav <b>ing</b>	had	had
go	Irr.	go <b>ing</b>	went	gone
take	Irr.	tak <b>ing</b>	took	taken
wake	Irr.	wak <b>ing</b>	woke	woken
teach	Irr.	teach <b>ing</b>	taught	taught
meet	Irr.	meet <b>ing</b>	met	met
swim	Irr.	swimm <b>ing</b>	swam	swum
laugh	Reg.	laugh <b>ing</b>	laugh <b>ed</b>	laugh <b>ed</b>
rob	Reg.	robb <b>ing</b>	robb <b>ed</b>	robb <b>ed</b>

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**Infinitive** = bare form or base form

Be is the only irregular form

Identical to present tense (NOT third person singular)

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I want to go home ( to-infinitive)

You can't go home ( bare infinitive)

3rd person test...

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# No -s, therefore run is the (bare) infinitive (we need the infinitive after can)

Lean run fast  $\Rightarrow$  he can run-s fast

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XERCISE

Are the verbs in **bold** present simple or the infinitive? Use the "third person singular" test.

- 1. May we **have** spaghetti for dinner?
- 2. I don't know whether they **like** meat

# Summary

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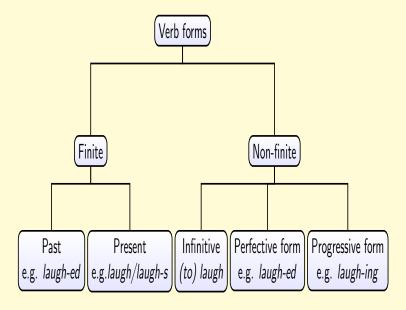
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# The importance of tense-marking

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In English, tense is marked by the third person singular present tense ending (he go-es)

... or a variety of regular and irregular past forms (dropped, gave, left).

With a few exceptions, sentences in English must have tense.

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Homework 17 / 47

In English, tense is marked by the third person singular present tense ending (he go-es)

... or a variety of regular and irregular past forms (dropped, gave, left).

With a few exceptions, sentences in English must have tense.

- (1)\*I going home
- (2)\*He go home

### **EXERCISE**

# The syntax of events

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What are the past simple and perfective forms of the following verbs?

- consider
- put
- take
- ► look
- make
- speak

### nite and non-finite fo

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# Marking Tense Importance of Tense EXERCISE

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#### EXERCISE

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#### Homework

What are the past simple and perfective forms of the following verbs?

- consider , considered, considered = REGULAR
- put
- take
- ► look
- make
- speak

Non-finite forms

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What are the past simple and perfective forms of the following verbs?

- consider . considered . considered = REGULAR
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- take
- look
- make
- speak

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- take . took. taken = IRREGULAR
- look
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- speak

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- consider , considered, considered = REGULAR
- put , put, put = IRREGULAR
- ▶ take , took, taken = IRREGULAR
- ▶ look , looked, looked = REGULAR
- make
- speak

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What are the past simple and perfective forms of the following verbs?

- consider . considered . considered = REGULAR
- put , put, put = IRREGULAR
- take . took. taken = IRREGULAR
- look . looked. looked = REGULAR
- make , made, made = IRREGULAR
- speak

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What are the past simple and perfective forms of the following verbs?

- consider . considered . considered = REGULAR
- put , put, put = IRREGULAR
- take . took. taken = IRREGULAR
- look . looked. looked = REGULAR
- make . made. made = IRREGULAR
- speak , spoke, spoken = IRREGULAR

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Marked using perfective / progressive forms

Progressive aspect (INTERNAL perspective on the event) is expressed using the progressive form

Perfective aspect (EXTERNAL perspective on the event) is marked using the perfective form.

How to mark aspect

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In addition to using the participle, we need to use an appropriate auxiliary verb which must "agree with" the participle.

The progressive form selects **be** as the agreeing auxiliary verb

(3)Zachary is eating

and the perfective form selects have as the agreeing auxiliary verb, e.g.

Julia has eaten (4)

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Combining tense and aspect

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# 1. Mark aspect on the *rightmost* verb and insert an appropriate *auxiliary verb*

- 2. Repeat last rule if necessary
- 3. Mark tense (plus "the future") on the *leftmost verb*

### Building up complex tenses

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Zachary eats

(5)

Zachary eats

\*Zachary eating

(5)

(6)

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Zachary eats

(5)

(6)

(7)

\*Zachary eating

Zachary is eating

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Anna falls

(8)

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Anna falls

(8)

(9)

\*Anna fallen

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- (8)Anna falls
- \*Anna fallen (9)
- (10)Anna has fallen

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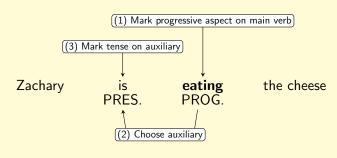
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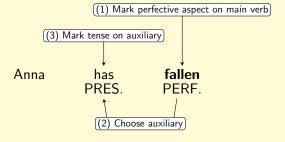
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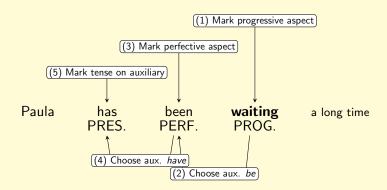
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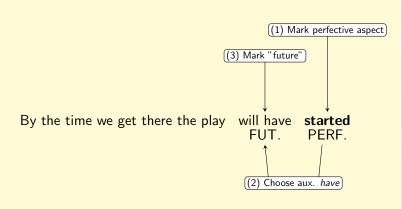
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..................

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When we build the sentence we go backwards

When we describe the tense-aspect combination we go forwards

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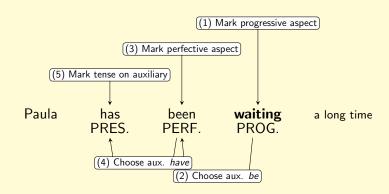
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Meanings are built up compositionally

ASPECT expresses 'perspective' (internal or external)

TENSE expresses temporal location of viewpoint (past, present, future)

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External perspective = Completed event (11)Zachary has eaten

Present viewpoint

A completed event with a viewpoint located in the present.

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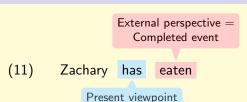
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A completed event with a viewpoint located in the present. So what's the difference between the following?

(12)Zachary has eaten

(13)Zachary ate

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Internal perspective = Ongoing event (14)(When I arrived) Janice was cooking spaghetti

Past Viewpoint

An ongoing event with a viewpoint located in the past

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External perspective = completed event

(15)By this time next week, I will have eaten the cheese. Future Viewpoint

A completed event with a viewpoint in the future

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External perspective = completed event

(16)When he got home she had already cleaning past viewpoint

A completed event with a viewpoint in the past

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# Auxiliary verbs are chosen to **support** the main verb (an

They are *servants* of the main verb.

auxiliary = a helper).

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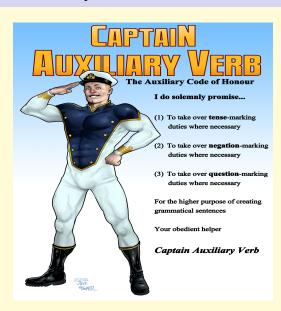
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Auxiliary verbs are chosen to **support** the main verb (an auxiliary = a helper).

They are *servants* of the main verb.

The main (non-modal) auxiliary verbs are have, be, and do

### What are auxiliary verbs?



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### Tense-marking duties

(17)

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\*John broken his watch

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## Tense-marking duties

(17)

(18)

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\*John broken his watch

✓ John has broken his watch

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\*John broken his watch

✓ John **has** broken his watch

\*Amy singing in the shower

(17)

(18)

(19)

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\*John broken his watch

✓ John **has** broken his watch

√ Amy **is** singing in the shower

\*Amy singing in the shower

(17)

(18)

(19)

(20)

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\*I like not this food

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\*I like not this food

I do not / don't like this food

(21)

(22)

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\*I like not this food

I do not / don't like this food

The negative particle is always attached to the first auxiliary

She has<sub>1</sub>n't been<sub>2</sub> coming here long

(21)

(22)

(23)

in the sentence:

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### Question-marking duties

She has done it?

(24)

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## Question-marking duties

She has done it?

Has she t done it?

Aux. movement

He is doing it?

(24)

(25)

(26)

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(24)She has done it? Aux. movement Has she t done it? (25)(26)He is doing it?

Aux. movement

(27)

Is he t doing it?

### Do-support

Does he like it?

Did he like it?

I didn't like it

(28)

(29)

(30)

If there is no auxiliary, we have to create one (do/does/did);

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If there is no auxiliary, we have to create one (do/does/did);

(28)Does he like it?

(29)Did he like it?

(30)I didn't like it

The process of adding do/does/did to express either negation or interrogative mood is sometimes called do support

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Do-support

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NB when we use do-support the main verb is the infinitive

Why?

Because the tense is marked on auxiliary do we cannot mark it again on the main verb.

You could possibly conceptualise this as the tense 'moving' to the auxiliary, e.g.

Do -es she like fish? (31)

### Do-support

(32)

(33)

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Do support

Does he do it?

did n't do it

Do support

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(34)

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I have Aux occasionally seen V shooting stars

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I have Aux occasionally seen v shooting stars (34)

(35)Jake is Aux really motoring v down the home straight

(36)Helen has Aux sometimes been Aux seeny downing Bloody Maries in the Frog and Bucket

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**EXERCISE** 

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Why are the following sentences incorrect? Can you correct them?

- 1. I no like this book!
- 2. You had a good time at the party?
- 3. Mary been studying hard lately
- 4. You've seen Janet recently?

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### Adding adverbs Placement of adverbs **EXERCISE**

Why are the following sentences incorrect? Can you correct

1. I don't like this book!

them?

6.1

Non-finite forms

Why are the following sentences incorrect? Can you correct them?

- 1. I don't like this book!
- 2. Did you have a good time at the party?

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e of aux. vbs.

at are auxiliary verbs?

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- 1. I don't like this book!
- 2. Did you have a good time at the party?
- 3. Mary has been studying hard lately

inite and non-finite for

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Role of aux. vbs.
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Why are the following sentences incorrect? Can you correct them?

- 1. I don't like this book!
- 2. Did you have a good time at the party?
- 3. Mary has been studying hard lately

What Are you t doing?

Aux. verb

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The expression I'm a big dog man has two meanings.

What are they?

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