

17 - Mood, Modality and Voice

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Mood, modality and voice

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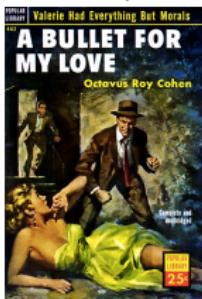
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Is you is, or is you ain't my baby?



Octavious Roy Cohen



Lewis Jordan



Tom and Jerry

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Is you is, or is you ain't my baby?

1. Non-standard agreement morphology (*you is...*)
2. Non-standard form of negated copula (*ain't*)
3. Movement without deletion (see later)

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All phenomena which can be used to manipulate the proposition expressed by a sentence.

Mood and **modality** are devices whereby speakers express their attitude to what they are saying.

Voice is a means of foregrounding (or “topicalising”) particular arguments

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In English “moods” are typically aligned with Speech Acts;

DECLARATIVE MOOD

(1) She s. is v. late for work cs .

(2) The cat s. ate v. the fish od .

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INTERROGATIVE MOOD

(3) Who do you work for ?

(4) Why are you being so mean ?

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IMPERATIVE MOOD

(5) Don't do that !

(6) Go away !

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EXCLAMATIVE MOOD

(7) What a terrible film !

(8) Boy was it awful !

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e.g. Romance has a **subjunctive** mood to refer to events which are hypothetical

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Question formation in 'wh'-questions

Is the Q about the Subject?

YES

Replace Subject
with Wh-expression

Move questioned constituent to front and
replace with 'wh' expression

Does sentence contain an Aux. or Cop.?

YES

Move Aux. or Cop.
before subject

NO

Use 'do' support

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1. The cat ate X

2. What the cat ate t ?

3. What did the cat ate eat t ?

Do-support

What did the cat t eat t ?

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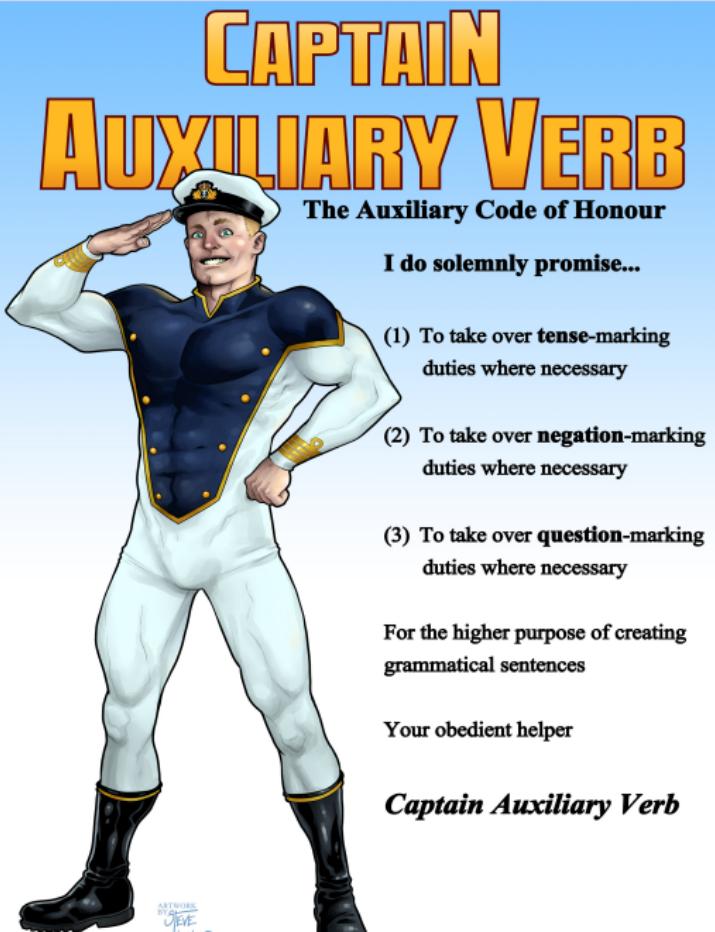
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1. He has given the book to X

Who he has given the book to t ?

2.

Who has he t given the book to t ?

3.



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(13) He escaped from jail [with a crow bar]

(14) How he escaped from jail t



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(13) He escaped from jail [with a crow bar]

(14) How he escaped from jail t

(15) How did he escaped from jail

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And yes-no questions...

(16) Did he like the dinner?

do-support

(17) Was he *t* having a good time ?

Was he *t* having a good time ?

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Correct the following questions. Why are they wrong?

1. What would you like **t** to eat ?

What would you like **t** to eat ?

What would you like **t** to eat ?

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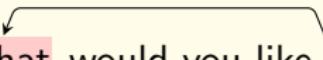
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Correct the following questions. Why are they wrong?

- 
1. What would you like **t** to eat ?
 2. Who ~~did eat~~ ate all of the pies?

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1. What would you like **t** to eat ?

2. Who ~~did-eat~~ ate all of the pies?

3. What '**s** he **t** been doing lately?

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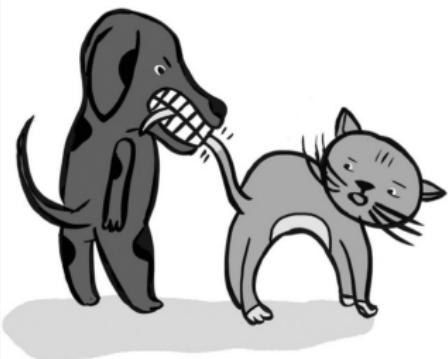
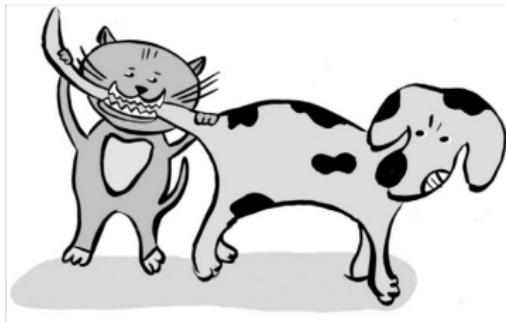
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Poor comprehension of Object questions (questions where 'wh' word refers to object) (Friedmann & Novogrodsky, 2011)



Which cat is biting the dog?

Which cat is the dog biting?

Interrogatives in Autism

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(19) What a nice guy!

(20)

Boy was it *t* awful!



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Do exclamatives develop from interrogatives? (Goldberg, A. E., 2006)?

Can we use exclamatives to model grammatical properties of interrogatives?

Boy  t fast !

Is  fast ?  Boy  t fast !

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4 important grammatical properties

1. They don't inflect for tense
e.g. * **She musted arrive on time**
2. They don't inflect for agreement
e.g. * **She musts arrive on time**
3. They are followed by the infinitive form (without "to")
e.g. **She must arrive on time.**
4. They invert to make questions, e.g.

Should I *t* bring a packed lunch?



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Have to and *Need to* are **semi-modals**

Express modal concepts (OBLIGATION), but do not exhibit the typical grammatical properties of modal verbs

need to, have to;

1. They inflect for tense

He had to/needed to work harder

2. They inflect for agreement

He has to/needs to work harder

3. Questions use do-support instead of inversion

Do I have to/need to work harder?

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You **should avoid** alcohol while on these tablets
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5. (Doorbell rings) That's unlikely to be Mary.

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Must Jack wear a suit?
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That **can't be** Mary!

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Must Jack wear a suit?
5. (Doorbell rings) That's unlikely to be Mary. ⇒
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6. We were obliged to wear a uniform at my school.

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4. Is it obligatory for Jack to wear a suit to work? ⇒
Does Jack have to wear a suit?
Must Jack wear a suit?
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That **can't be** Mary!
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We **had to wear** a uniform at my school.

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1. Have you watched "**The Walking Dead**"?
2. **It's** one of my favourite series.
3. **It's** about a group of survivors fighting zombies in an apocalyptic wasteland.
4. **It's** really quite gripping.
5. **It's** made by an American Channel called AMC
6. **The pilot episode** was directed by Frank Darabont, who directed the Shawshank Redemption.

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The pilot episode was directed *t* by F. Darabont

Turns a non-subject into a subject.

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Food was given *t* to all the refugees

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All the refugees were given *t* food

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Subject and object complements cannot be passivised

(41)  He was elected  captain of the team

(42) * Captain of the team was elected him 

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The passive gets a bad press!

Use of the passive is often criticised, and many style manuals, e.g. Strunk and White, "The Elements of Style". It is 'dishonest' because it hides agency

- (46) TEENAGER: Mum, I invited a few friends around, and unfortunately the TV was broken . . .

- (47) The miners were arrested

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(47) The miners were arrested

The cat was chased by the dog.

'50 years of stupid grammar advice', by Geoff Pullum.

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What Innocent never mentions in his writing is that the Church at the time faced more

✓ opposition than perhaps it cared to admit. Innocent didn't enjoy the security that his writing made

it seem ~~that he did~~. The goal of Henry VI had been to control Italy. The papacy did its best to

prevent this by refusing to crown Henry emperor unless he promised not to ~~control~~ ^{intervene in} Italy. Henry

P.V. was obviously very interested in doing so, but died before his plans could come to fruition.

E P.V. 3 Innocent was quite brilliantly using the vacancy in the emperor's throne to try to place the church

back into assured power, by stepping in to control who would become pope, almost exactly what

Henry IV had done in 1075.

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E P.V. 3 Innocent was also reluctant to mention the position in which heresy was putting the

church. It was relatively easy to stomp out a few flames of nonbelievers, but lately more and more

E P.V. 3 people were opposing the official viewpoint in one way or another. E ^{called} Innocent saw his people taken

from him by the Waldensian heresy and the Albigensian, or Cathar, heresy. People began to

E P.V. 3 realize that the church was corrupt, that church practices were more and more motivated by

E P.V. 3 income. Heresies that were motivated by legitimate concerns were more likely to attract attention,

E P.V. 3 but none of this was mentioned by Innocent in his writing on *The Punishment of Heretics* in 1198.

The passive gets a bad press!

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The passive in language-impaired populations

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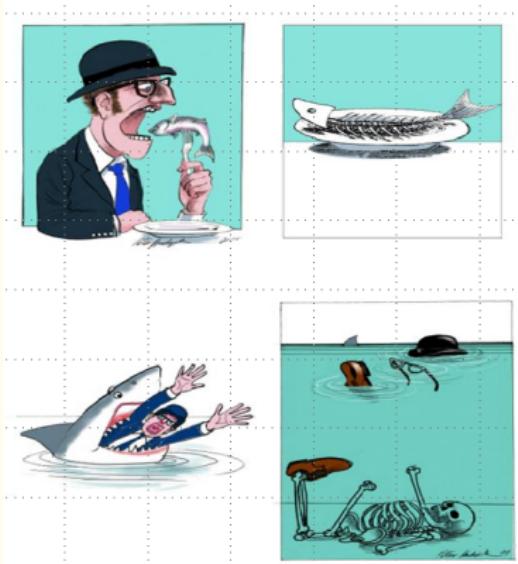
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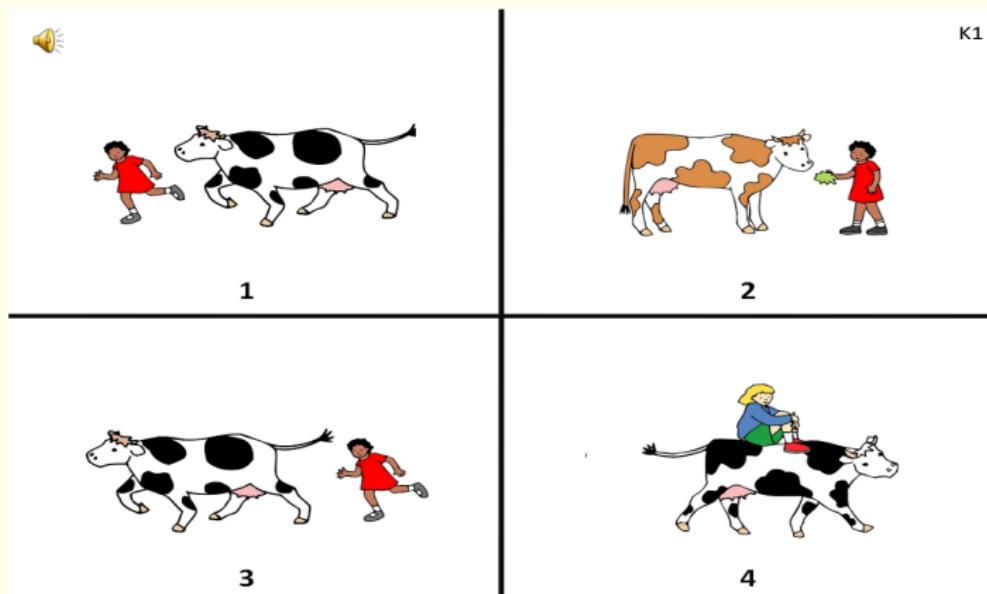
Individuals with developmental/acquired language impairments have great difficulties comprehending the passive (Van der Lely, 1996)



The passive in language-impaired populations

You will find that many assessments of both production and comprehension (e.g. CELF recalling sentences, or TROG comprehension task) employ the passive.

'The cow is chased by the girl'



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The following sentence is actually grammatical

(48) The horse raced past the barn fell

Can you create a discourse context where the sentence makes sense.

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