
Linguistics Seminar 5

1. Label the tense and aspect of the following sentences

- a) Don't knock on my door at five because I am going to be meditating

Future progressive

... I am going to be meditating

FUT.

PROG.

- b) She laughed loudly

Past simple

She laughed loudly

PAST

- c) She hadn't seen Jack for quite some time.

Past Perfect

She hadn't seen Jack for quite some time

PAST

PERF.

- d) Angie must be getting up very early for work

Progressive grammatical aspect, but NO TENSE

Angie must be getting up very early for work

NO TENSE

PROG.

- e) Clive had been seeing Andy for over ten years

Past perfect progressive

Clive had been seeing Andy for over ten years

PAST

PERF.

PROG.

- f) She'll be coming round the mountain (when she comes)

Future progressive

She 'll be coming

FUT.

PROG.

- g) They sang a bawdy song

Past Simple

They **sang** a bawdy song

PAST

- h) He's always been interested in computers

Present Perfect

He **'s** always **been** interested in computers

PRES.

PERF.

- i) She was having her hair cut at the time of the accident

Past Progressive

She **was** **having** her hair cut at the time of the accident

PAST

PROG.

2. Correct the following sentences, and explain why they are in wrong

- a) I no think you are very happy

I **don't** think you are very happy

We cannot add negation to the main verb. We must add it to the auxiliary. There is no auxiliary so we need to add one

CAPTAIN AUXILIARY SAVES THE DAY!!

- b) He tried to beat his world record?

Did he ~~tryed~~ to beat his world record?

We make a (non-subject) question via subject-auxiliary inversion (i.e. moving the auxiliary to the front of the sentence). We don't have an auxiliary so we have to make one.

CAPTAIN AUXILIARY SAVES THE DAY!!

- c) She have always been a good sleeper

She **has** always been a good sleeper

Have is an infinitive form. In English, one of the verbs in the verb complex must carry tense. Therefore we need the tensed form (*has*)

- d) Janice was eat when we arrived

Janice was **eating** when we arrived

Auxiliary *be* is used with progressive grammatical aspect. To make the main verb progressive, we add -ing

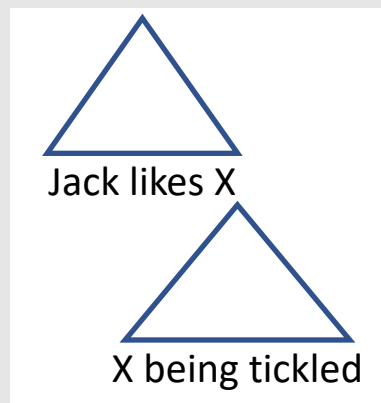
- e) I been having migraines recently

None of the verbs has tense (*having* carries progressive aspect, while *been* carries progressive aspect). We need another auxiliary to carry tense; *have*

3. Which of the following sentences demonstrate recursion (a phrase inside a phrase of the same type), and which type of phrase is used recursively?

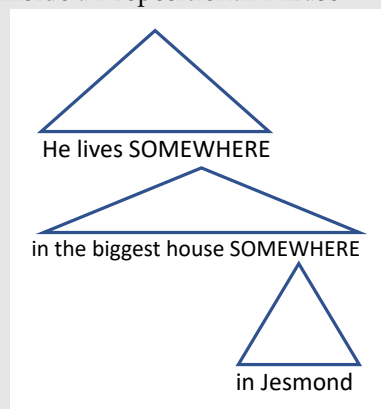
- a) Jack likes being tickled

A Verb Phrase inside a Verb Phrase



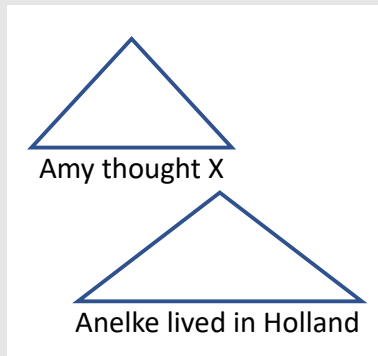
- b) He lives in the biggest house in Jesmond.

A Prepositional Phrase inside a Prepositional Phrase



- c) Amy thought that Anelke lived in Holland

A clause inside a clause



d) Although last night Jason went to bed late, he felt surprisingly fresh in the morning

