

Verbs and Verb Phrases

VERBS

AUXILIARY VERBS:

primary (do, have, be)

modal (can, could, might, will, ...)

LEXICAL VERBS:

catenative (happen to) concatenate

full (dance, go, ...)

MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS

- always the **1st** element in the verb group;
- never followed by "to-infinitive";
- do not form imperative

CENTRAL: *can/could, will/would, shall/would, may/might*

(used to be used as strictly present/past tense pairs)

MARGINAL: *need, dare, ought to, used to*

NICE TEST (Negation, Inversion, Code, Emphasis)

= they all distinguish AUXILIARY from LEXICAL verbs

- **Negation:** aux. verbs capable of incorporating negative particle

S V{not} * incorrect (cannot be merged with lex. V)

S AUX{not} V correct (aux. V needed)

I *will not* come.

- **Inversion:** aux. verbs - swapping of S and V to form questions

S V => V S *

S AUX V => AUX S V

Will you go there?

Note: * symbol marks constructions that are **ungrammatical/incorrect**

NICE TEST contd.

- **Code:** possible to use aux. verbs as substitutes for any lexical verbs or phrases

Perhaps, he **should** [- , go, join the army]

Do you think he **must** [- , go, join the army]

- **Emphasis:** can be achieved with the use of aux. verbs

I [*really*] go, I [*definitely*] arrived.

I [**do**] go, I [**did**] arrive.

- the same effect as the adverbs above

LEXICAL VERBS

CATENATIVE LEXICAL VERBS and FULL LEXICAL VERBS

CATENATIVE: verbs that "concatenate" (join)

John [*seems to*] [go] = **V1** + V2

(full verb at the end)

- cat. verbs can be chained: 1 or more catenative V + a full V

He [*appears to*] [*want to*] [*keep on*] [doing] his job.

Ex: identify all verb groups

1. I [asked] you.
2. I [could].
3. I [have asked] you.
4. I [must ask] you.
5. I [should have bought] it.
6. Yes, you [should have].
7. He [must have been drinking].
8. It [might have been being used] at the time.

Ex: identify all verb groups

1. I [asked] you (main: lexical)
2. I [could] (main: modal)
3. I [have asked] you (aux, main)
4. I [must ask] you (modal, main)
5. I [should have bought] it (modal, aux, main)
6. Yes, you [should have] (modal, aux)
7. He [must have been drinking] (modal, aux, aux, main)
8. It [might **have been being** used] at the time (modal, **aux, aux, aux**, main)

[modal - perfect:have - passive:be - progressive:be - lexical]

Ex:

Identify all **NPs**:

People want to be loved.

I am happy with the result.

Everybody cheered him on.

Ex:

Identify all **NPs** that contain determiners or quantifiers:

All my children still live at home.

Both of his younger brothers are in the army.

Those two suitcases are mine.