

Verbs

VERB FORMS (LEXICAL VERBS)

- **the base:** present tense (simple) except 3rd person sg.; imperative mood; subjunctive mood; bare infinitive; to- infinitive
- **the -s form:** 3rd person sg.; spoken: /iz/ follows voiceless sibilants; /z/ voiced sounds; /s/ other voiceless sounds; spelling: -s, -es
- **the past:** (ir)regular; /id/ follows /d/, /t/; /d/ voiced sounds (except for /d/); /t/ voiceless sounds (except for /t/)
- **the -ing (present) participle:** progressive aspect; -ing participle clauses; -ing added to the base (-e dropped)
- **the -ed (past) participle:** the same as the past (unless irregular)

VERBS FORMATION

- not always possible to identify a verb by its form
- some verbs are related to nouns:
 - *to hand, to position*
- some to adjectives:
 - *to calm, to thin*
- compound verbs:
 - *to hand-wash, to highlight, to overcome, to upgrade*

VERBS: PREFIXES, SUFFIXES

- **suffixes:**

- -ate: *appreciate, celebrate, congratulate*
- -en: *frighten, soften, widen*
- -ify: *identify, specify, qualify*
- -ise/-ize: *realise, recognise, modernize*

- **prefixes:**

- ad-: *adapt, admit, advance*
- de-: *deceive, deform, describe*
- im-/in-: *impose, increase, inform*
- per-: *perform, persuade, perceive*
- re-: *recall, receive, reproduce*

TIME VS. TENSE

- There is PRESENT / PAST / FUTURE **TIME**
- The linear representation of TIME; time as a simple line with a point for PRESENT TIME or “now”; PAST on the left of that point; FUTURE on the right
- **TENSE** = grammatical realization of TIME by means of verbal inflection; as there is no inflection added to verbs to express future time, there are **only 2 tenses** in English, i.e. **PRESENT TENSE** and **PAST TENSE** (future is expressed by other means, e.g. modal verbs, be going to .., etc.)

ASPECT

- **ASPECT** is a grammatical category which reflects the way in which the action denoted by the verb is regarded or experienced with respect to time (where they are on the time axis)
- **PERFECTIVE** aspect signals "completeness"
has eaten, had taken
- **PROGRESSIVE** aspect signal actions "in progress"; temporariness, limited duration, incompleteness
is eating, was drinking
- Combination of the two:
I have been running

TENSE VS. ASPECT

In practice, in verbs there is a combination of a **morphological realization of tense** with a **syntactic realization of aspect**.

The table shows the interconnection of tense and aspect:

Tense	Aspect		
	unmarked	perfective	progressive
Present	<i>I take</i>	<i>I have taken</i>	<i>I am taking</i>
Past	<i>I took</i>	<i>I had taken</i>	<i>I was taking</i>

VOICE

- describes the **relationship** between the **action** (or state) that the **V** expresses and **other syntactic elements** (S, O, etc.)
- When S is the agent/doer of the action >> V is in the ACTIVE voice
 - Pete *read* many books.
- When S is the patient/target/undergoer of the action >> V is in the PASSIVE voice
 - Books *are read* by many Peters.

VOICE – ACTIVE

- The **ACTIVE VOICE** is the basic, **unmarked form** of the clause:

She | *has eaten* | my lunch.

S **V** **O**

She | *has not made* | me | a cup of tea.

S **V** **Oi** **Od** (Note: object direct, object indirect)

She | *was sleeping* | in this bed.

S **V** **A**

VOICE - PASSIVE

- The **PASSIVE VOICE** is the more **marked form** of the clause in which the S corresponds in meaning to an O (or very occasionally an A) of a corresponding active clause. So parallel to the previous examples, we have the corresponding passive clauses:

My lunch | *has been eaten*.

S **V(passive)**

A cup of tea | *was not made* | for me.

S **V** **O**

This bed | *has been slept* in.

S **V**

- The S of the corresponding active becomes an **optional ADVERBIAL OF AGENCY** in the passive, nearly always a PP marked with the preposition **by**:

This bed has been slept in **by Goldilocks**.

FINITE VS. NON-FINITE VERB FORMS

Verbs exhibit varying degree of morphological regularity:

There are the following **5 forms**; depending on a given verb, the forms may be all different, or they may overlap (e.g. *called* can be both *past* and *past participle*):

BASE	call	speak	cut
3rd SINGULAR PRESENT	calls	speaks	cuts
PRESENT PARTICIPLE	calling	speaking	cutting
PAST	called	spoke	cut
PAST PARTICIPLE	called	spoken	cut

Of the above, the **FINITE** forms are: 3rd SINGULAR PRESENT, PAST

And the **NON-FINITE** forms: PRESENT PARTICIPLE, PAST PARTICIPLE

- **FINITE CLAUSES:** only the first V in the given V groups carry "FINITE" properties (underlined):

She calls him an old fool.

She is calling him ...

She has called him ...

She called him ...

She was calling him ...

She had called him ...

- **NON-FINITE CLAUSES:**

Calling him ...

Having called him ...

Having been called ...