

The VERB ⇒ typically refers to actions, to processes (events that have a span of time between the initial and final state), states.

The VERBAL PHRASE

The phrase is a grammatical unit that lies between the clause and the word. A phrase may consist of only one word called the headword (H) or it may consist of the headword with one or more words clustered around it and dependent on it; these are called modifiers (M). A **verbal phrase** has a lexical verb as the headword.

Structure of a phrase is always the same:

premodifiers (0-3)	headword	postmodifiers (0-2)
auxiliary verbs:	lexical verb	adverbial, prepositional particles
tense		
voice		
aspect		
modality		

The verbal phrase (VP) normally follows the nominal phrase functioning as subject in a sentence.

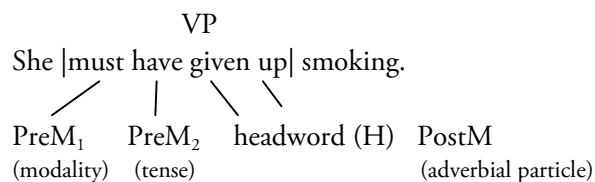
There are two kinds of verbal phrases:

- **SIMPLE VERBAL PHRASE** → consists only of one verb, which is the headword:

$\begin{array}{cc} H & H \\ | & | \\ \text{Birds} & \text{fly.} \end{array}$

- **COMPLEX VERBAL PHRASE** → consists of a lexical verb as headword which is preceded by a modal auxiliary and/or by one or more primary auxiliaries as premodifiers (**PreM**) and/or followed by one or more postmodifiers (**PostM**):

$\begin{array}{ccc} H & \text{PreM} & H \\ | & | & | \\ \text{Birds} & \text{can} & \text{fly.} \end{array}$



MORPHOLOGICAL CHARACTERISTICS OF VERBS:

- ▶ **LEXICAL/ROOT MORPHEME** → carries the lexical meaning of the verb *walk*, ...
- ▶ **DERIVATIONAL MORPHEME** → used to derive words from other parts of speech *-fy*, *-en*, *-ise/-ize*, ...
- ▶ **INFLECTIONAL MORPHEME** → carries the grammatical meaning *-ed*, *-ing*, *-s*, ...

MORPHOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION OF VERBS:

- ▶ **SINGLE-WORD VERBS**
 - a) **Simple verbs**: verbs which consist of only one lexical morpheme (*be*, *leave*, *live*, *work* ...)
 - b) **Compound verbs**: verbs which consist of two lexical morphemes (*blackmail*, *browbeat*, *day-dream*)
 - c) **Derived verbs**: verbs furnished with derivational morphemes (prefixes or suffixes); these verbs may be derived from verbs, nouns or adjectives (*disagree*, *reconstruct*, *unbutton*, *blacken*, *beautify*)
- ▶ **MULTI-WORD VERBS**
 - a) **Phrasal verbs**: *bring about*, *look up*, *take in* ...
 - b) **Prepositional verbs**: *call on*, *hear of*, *run across* ...
 - c) **Phrasal-prepositional verbs**: *put up with*, *do away with*, *look forward to* ...

THE FORM OF THE VERB:

The majority of English verbs have four forms:

- ☞ **THE BASE** *decide*, *kiss*, *play* *work*
 - Functions:
 - All the indefinite present tense except the 3rd person singular (*I/we/you/they decide*)
 - Infinitive:
 - The bare infinitive (*he may decide*)
 - The *to*-infinitive (*he wants her to decide*)
 - Imperative: *decide at once*
 - Subjunctive: *she demanded that he decide the case.*
- ☞ **THE BASE + -s or + -es after sibilants** *decide-s*, *kiss-es*, *play-s*
 - Function: 3rd person singular of the indefinite present tense
- ☞ **THE BASE + (-e)d (the -ed form)** *work-ed*, *kiss-ed*, *decide-d*
 - Functions:
 - Indefinite past tense: *I/we/you/she/it/they decided*
 - Past participle: *I have called the boy*, *the boy has been called*
- ☞ **THE BASE + -ing (the -ing form)** *decid-ing*, *kiss-ing*, *play-ing*
 - Functions:
 - Present participle: *she entered the room calling her children*
 - Gerund: *deciding is acting.*

The lexical verb may be regular or irregular. The -s form and the -ing form of all lexical verbs are predictable from the base. Thus, the distinction between regular and irregular verbs is based on the extent to which the past tense and the past participle are predictable.

- ⇒ **REGULAR LEXICAL VERBS** are those that form the past tense and the past participle by adding the inflectional morpheme *-(e)d* to the base.
- ⇒ **IRREGULAR LEXICAL VERBS** use an irregular form in the function of the past tense or the past participle or both: *go* + [+past] = *went*. The suppletion can be **partial**, i. e. there is resemblance between the original and the new form (*build* – *built*); or **complete**, i. e. there is no resemblance between the original and the new form (*be* – *was*)

▷ SPELLING CHANGES

Basic form + morphemes *-s/-ed/-ing* → spelling change

1.

1.1 Morpheme [-s]

The base form remains the same (unchanged)

sing → *sings*

1.2. Final consonant + y

try → *tries* (y → ie [+s])

1.3. Final -sh, -ch, -ss, -o, -x, -z, -es

finish → *finishes*

miss → *misses*

fix → *fixes*

buzz → *buzzes*

go → *goes*

1.4. Monosyllabic verbs with final single 's'

bus → *busses*

gas → *gasses*

*with disyllabic verbs, doubling is optional

2. The present participle and gerund morphemes -ing

2.1. Without changes

play → *playing*

2.2. Verbs with the final "e" / "mute e"

smile → *smiling*

tremble → *trembling*

*the final ‘e’ tells us the preceding vowel is long (*rob/robe, scar/scare*)

2.2.2. No mute ‘e’

agree → *agreeing*

knee → *kneeing*

tiptoe → *tiptoeing*

age → *ageing* (!)

singe → *singeing* (!)

2.3. Final ‘ie’

tie → *tying*

die → *dying*

2.4. Final ‘c’

panic → *panicking*

mimic → *mimicking*

3. The past tense and the past participle morphemes -ed

3.1. Without changes

follow → *followed*

walk → *walked*

play → *played*

3.2. Mute ‘e’ rule

smile → *smiled*

tiptoe → *tiptoed*

agree → *agreed*

singe → *singed*

dye → *dyed*

age → *aged*

3.3. Final consonant + ‘y’

try → *tried*

cry → *cried*

3.4. Final ‘c’

panic → *panicked*

mimic → *mimicked*

4. The doubling of the final consonant

4.1. Monosyllabic words that end in a single vowel letter (short vowel phoneme) followed by a consonant

bar → *barred/barring*

clap → *clapped / clapping*

shim → *shimmed* / *shimming*

BUT this does not apply to verbs ending in -x, -y, -w

row → *rowed* / *rowing*

box → *boxed* / *boxing*

play → *played* / *playing*

4.2. Disyllabic words with stress on the second syllable, ending in a single vowel letter, followed by a consonant

commit → *committed* / *committing*

occur → *occurred* / *occurring*

submit → *submitted* / *submitting*

4.3. Disyllabic words ending in “l” (in British English only)

travel → *travelled* / *travelling*

dial → *dialled* / *dialling*

4.3.1.

program → *programmed* / *programming*

worship → *worshipped* / *worshipping*

kidnap → *kidnapped* / *kidnapping*

hiccup → *hiccupped* / *hiccupping*

BUT:

gossip → *gossiped*

develop → *developed*

SEMANTICS

A theory that deals with the meaning of words

SEMANTIC ROLE			Matching between the syntactic and semantic function:
AGENT/ACTOR	the participant that <u>intentionally</u> initiates the action/event expressed by the verb	<i>George</i> kissed <i>Mary</i> AGENT	Usually in the subject position.
PATIENT	the participant that undergoes the action expressed by the verb and is also <u>changed/affected</u> by the action	<i>George</i> kissed <i>Mary</i> PATIENT	Usually in the direct object position.
BENEFICIARY	the participant that <u>benefits</u> from the action expressed by the verb	<i>George</i> made <i>Mary</i> a sandwich BENEFICIARY	Usually in the indirect object (or adjunct) position.
EXPERIENCER	the participant that <u>experiences</u> some psychological state expressed by the verb, is aware of the state but cannot control it	<i>George</i> saw <i>Mary</i> EXPERIENCER	Usually in the subject position.
THEME	the participant that undergoes the action expressed by the verb but is <u>not affected</u> by it	<i>George</i> saw <i>Mary</i> THEME	Usually in the direct object position
LOCATION	the place where the action expressed by the verb <u>takes place</u>	<i>Mary</i> drove to <i>the party</i> . LOCATION	Usually in the adjunct position.
INSTRUMENT	<u>the means by which</u> an action expressed by the verb is performed	<i>George</i> saw <i>Mary</i> with <i>binoculars</i> INSTRUMENT	Usually in the adjunct position.

CLASSIFICATION OF VERBS ACCORDING TO THEIR FUNCTION IN THE VERBAL PHRASE

According to their function in the verbal phrase verbs may be classified into lexical verbs and auxiliary verbs; the latter are subdivided into primary and modal auxiliaries.

AUXILIARY VERBS

Auxiliary verbs are "helping verbs"; they normally help to make up complex verbal phrases - premodifiers in a (complex) verbal phrase: *She **doesn't** believe me.*

When two or more lexical verbs in the same analytical form are connected with *and* or *or*, the auxiliary verb is used only with the first verb: *She **is** sitting in the living room and reading the newspaper.*

The auxiliaries make different contributions to verbal phrases; accordingly there are two main types of auxiliary verbs: **primary auxiliaries** and **modal auxiliaries**.

► PRIMARY AUXILIARY VERBS:

The primary auxiliaries as premodifiers in a verbal phrase have lost their lexical meaning and express only some grammatical relations showing the person, number, tense, voice and mood; the action of the state itself is expressed by the headword which is always a lexical verb. (The primary auxiliaries are also used as lexical verbs: *She is a student; I haven't done much today; I'll have tea for breakfast*)

DO	THE AUXILIARY OF PERIPHRAISIS AND EMPHASIS	Used to form negations and questions in all present and past indefinite tenses , and for the purpose of emphasis .
BE	THE AUXILIARY OF ASPECT AND VOICE	Used to form progressive tenses and the passive voice .
HAVE	THE AUXILIARY OF TENSE	Used to form perfect tenses .

► MODAL AUXILIARY VERBS:

Contribute to the meaning of the verbal phrase (probability, possibility, obligation, volition, ...)

- **CAN/COULD**
- **MAY / MIGHT**
- **SHALL / SHOULD**
- **WILL / WOULD**
- **MUST**
- **OUGHT TO**
- **NEED**
- **DARE**
- **USED TO**

The modal auxiliaries give the lexical verb they are used with special shades of meaning such as futurity, volition, possibility, permission, obligation, etc. They can only occur as the first (finite) element of the finite verbal phrase.

Auxiliaries have different functions in the verbal phrase, but they all functions as **operators**.

She might have been eavesdropping.

She has been eavesdropping.

She is eavesdropping.

} operators

1. *She cannot do it.*

*She saw not the play.

not an auxiliary/not an operator
because it cannot function on its own.

2. *can't, isn't, 'm, 's, I'll,...*

⇒ auxiliary verbs can be contracted (in most cases)

3. *She will arrive* \rightarrow *Will she arrive?*

4. *I know you didn't post the letter.*

--But I **DID** post the letter, believe me. → **emphatic positive sentences**

5. *Has he done it yet?*

-- Yes he has.

6. Preadverbial position

She would probably never have believed that story.

She would probably have never believed that story.

*She would have believed probably never that story.

► SEMI-AUXILIARIES

Mostly they express the modal meaning and the temporal meaning.

↳ *be able to, be about to, be going to, be obliged to, have to*

1. *He is going to swim* \rightarrow **Is going he to swim.*

2. *He has to be smart.* \rightarrow **Has he to be smart.*

LEXICAL VERBS

Those with **full lexical meaning** of their own and can be used without any additional words as headwords in verbal phrases. Such are all English verbs, except auxiliaries.

In complex VPs only the final word is a lexical verb which conveys meaning; the premodifiers have mainly grammatical meaning. It is typical of lexical verbs that they do not have a negative form of their own, but make it by means of auxiliary verbs (**Father cut not the meat* vs. *Father did not cut the meat*).

STRUCTURAL CLASSIFICATION OF LEXICAL VERBS

⇒ Lexical verbs can be classified into different categories according to the type of structure in which they occur:

► LINKING VERBS / COPULAS

The verb in a clause with a **subject complement** is a linking verb or copula (*She is bright; He became a farmer*)

⇒ LINKING VERB OF STATE (refer to a state): *be, smell, sound, remain*

⇒ LINKING VERB OF TRANSITION (refer to a transition): *turn, grow, get, go*

I am tired.
Those roses smell nice.
This sounds strange

The governess grew impatient.
He turned nice.
George got tired of her.

TRANSITIVITY – verbal complementation

► INTRANSITIVE VERBS

⇒ Do not need complementation; **cannot take a direct object**; the action expressed by an intransitive verb does not affect any person or thing other than the subject. Here belong such verbs as *be, cry, fall, rise, sleep, stand, swim*. *Peter sleeps everyday for eight hours.*

► TRANSITIVE VERBS

⇒ Transitive verbs **can take a direct object**. Here belong such verbs as *bring, give, love, make, see, show*.

She made a cake.
 P DO

A cake was made.
 S P

Whenever you have a passive voice structure, the verb is transitive.

DIFFERENT CATEGORIES OF TRANSITIVE VERBS:

MONOTRANSITIVE	Verbs that may be used with a DO (usually a NP)	<i>George kissed Mary.</i> DO
DITRANSITIVE	Verbs that require double complementation: DO + IO (both a NP)	<i>George gave Mary a bouquet of flowers.</i> IO DO
COMPLEX TRANSITIVE	Verbs that may be followed by a DO + OC .	<i>Mary considers George ugly.</i> DO OC

REFLEXIVE VERBS

Transitive verbs that are followed by a **reflexive pronoun** as **direct object**.

PROPER REFLEXIVE VERBS

Use of a reflexive pronoun is obligatory.

pride oneself, absent oneself from, demean oneself, perjure oneself, avail oneself, ingratiate oneself, to make oneself at home, betake oneself

SEMI-REFLEXIVE VERBS

The reflexive pronoun can be omitted, with little or no change in meaning.

behave (oneself), hide (oneself), wash (oneself), shave (oneself), dress (oneself)

NB:

George blames himself for the accident. not reflexive
George blames Mary for the accident.

Reflexive pronouns are not used in English when the subject is inanimate.

CATENATIVE VERBS ⇒ Transitive (mostly monotransitive) verbs whose **object is realized by a non-finite clause**.

The catenative verb selects the form of the following verb. Thus, catenatives may be followed by:

- A BARE INFINITIVE
- A *TO*-INFINITIVE
- A GERUND
- A PRESENT PARTICIPLE
- A PAST PARTICIPLE

A non-finite form or a non-finite clause, however, is not always obligatory; after some catenatives a dependant *that*-clause can be used instead: *She pretended **that** she had forgotten his name.*

I want to go.

George tried to sleep.

She hopes to marry George soon.

I saw Peter cheating at cards.

Mary heard her name called twice.

Catenative verbs are sometimes followed not only by a verb but by a nominal phrase + verb.

Mary likes swimming.

George hates drinking cold milk.

NB:

She went to the shop to buy some bread.

She came not knowing what to expect.

} intransitive

ERGATIVE VERBS ⇒ Verbs which can take either the agent or the patient as the grammatical subject of the sentence and in both cases there is **no change in voice**.

An explosion shook the room. → The room shook.

Mary is roasting a turkey. → A turkey is roasting.

} active voice

NB:

Mary kicked George. → George was kicked. - the voice is changed

MULTI-WORD VERBS ⇒ lexical verbs followed by one or two particles

Multiword verbs are a combination of:

- VERB + ADVERBIAL PARTICLE → **PHRASAL VERBS**
- VERB + PREPOSITION → **PREPOSITIONAL VERBS**
- VERB + ADVERBIAL PARTICLE + PREPOSITION → **PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERBS**

These combinations of two or three words are considered multi-word verbs when, forming a collocation, function as single units in both meaning and structure.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MULTI-WORD VERBS AND SINGLE-WORD VERBS FOLLOWED BY A PREPOSITIONAL PHRASE:

A multi-word verb is a semantic unit having a meaning which often differs from the sum of the meanings of its separate parts.

- The semantic unity in multi-word verbs can often be manifested by substitution with single-word verbs:

reject - turn down; seek - look up

- In a sequence of a single-word verb and a prepositional phrase each element retains its lexical meaning.

- The prepositional phrases which follow single-word verbs have the function of adverbial adjuncts:

*The postman **turned down** the lane. Father **called on** Friday.*
S P A (pP) S P A (pP)

- Consequently they allow adverbial questions with *when* or *where*: *Where did the postman turn? – Down the lane; When did Father call? – On Friday.*

- The nominal phrases which follow the particle of multi-word verbs are direct objects:

*The manager **turned down** the proposal. Father **called on** Mr. Jones.*
S P DO S P DO

- Like ordinary transitive verbs, multi-word verbs allow pronominal notions questions with *whom* and *what*: *What did the manager turn down? – The proposal; Who(m) did father call on? – Mr. Jones.*

- Multi-word verbs usually accept passive transformations just like ordinary transitive verbs, whereas combinations of single-word verbs and prepositional phrases, normally do not admit of the passive:

The manager turned down the proposal. The proposal was turned down
Father called on Mr. Jones. Mr. Jones was called on.
The postman turned down the lane. No passive transformation.
Father called on Friday. No passive transformation.

PHRASAL VERBS

VERB + ADVERBIAL PARTICLE

- ⇒ POSITION OF THE OBJECT: with most transitive phrasal verbs, the particle may either precede or follow a short noun object:

Mary looked up the words = Mary looked the words up

Phrasal verbs can be either transitive or intransitive; *Did the bomb blow up?*
/ The enemy has given in. / Please, don't hang up, listen to me.

- ⇒ POSITION OF ADJUNCTS: only a noun object may separate the verb component from the particle; adjuncts must be placed either before or after the phrasal verb:

Mary picked up her handbag quickly.
Mary quickly picked up her handbag.
Mary picked her handbag up quickly.
Mary quickly picked her handbag up.

IDIOMATIC vs. NON-IDIOMATIC STATUS:

1. one word equivalent
back up - support
come in - enter
2. no equivalent
go off (the bread went off)
3. free combination
go across - cross

Broad and narrow definition of PHRASAL VERBS:

a) NARROW DEFINITION (SEMANTICS):

- A phrasal verb has to form a new semantic unit, must have a new meaning.
- *He turned up in the middle of nowhere.* (+) - *He called back from his office.* (-)

b) BROAD DEFINITION (SYNTAX):

- The verb and the adverb must form the same syntactic unit (predicator).
- *He turned off the lights.* (+) → phrasal verb in a narrow sense
- *He turned off the road.* (-)

Characteristics of PHRASAL VERBS

Usually used in everyday (informal, colloquial) language

- *come in = enter*

Most of them have a single verb equivalent (usually foreign origin)

- *put out = extinguish* - *go out = date, court, woo*

Many are synonymous with other phrasal verbs

- *hold on = hang on*

They can have different adverbial particles for the same meanings

- *fill/in,out,up (the form)* - *drop/by,in,round*

Some tend to be used more formal

- *break down (formal meaning) = conk out (informal meaning, substandard)*

They can be found in idiomatic expressions

- *make up your mind = decide*

In some cases the particle can have two forms

- *insist on (more informal) = insist upon (posh, formal)*

PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

VERB + PREPOSITION

Prepositional verbs are always transitive.

- ⇒ POSITION OF THE OBJECT: prepositional verbs are inseparable; the object always follows the preposition: *Mr. Johnson has gone into the tourism business.*
- ⇒ POSITION OF ADJUNCT: the prepositional component may be separated from the verb by an adjunct: *Tom laughed heartily at the joke.*

PHRASAL-PREPOSITIONAL VERBS

VERB + ADVERB + PREPOSITION

Operate in most cases like prepositional verbs.

- ⇒ POSITION OF THE OBJECT: the position of the object is always after the prepositional component; a phrasal-prepositional verb can be analysed as a transitive verb with the following nominal phrase as direct object
I am looking forward to the party.
Look out for the car!
- ⇒ POSITION OF ADJUNCT: we cannot insert an adjunct immediately before a short direct object nor in front of the first particle, though it is possible to do so between particles.
The policeman caught up quickly with the criminals.
The policeman quickly caught up with the criminals.
**The policeman caught up with quickly the criminals.*

SYNTACTIC CRITERIA

PREPOSITIONAL VERBS: *Into what did she go?* - *Into details about...*

FREE COMBINATION *In what did she go?* - *The room*; *Where did she go?* - *Into the room.*

Verb of movement followed by location is always analyzed as a free combination.

PROBLEMS

She suffered from cancer. prep. verb

**Cancer was suffered from.*

Primitive once live in these caves. free combinations

These caves were lived in by primitive men.

Degrees of semantic unity - transparency

➤ NON-TRANSPARENT (The meaning of the whole cannot be deduced from its parts. With adverbial particles)

She takes good care to get in with the people who matter.

➤ TRANSPARENT (The meaning of the whole is easily deducible from its parts)

The attackers fled when the two men fought back.

➡ GRAMMATICAL COLLOCATIONS (a verb is always used with a particular preposition/adverb.
Only prepositional verbs)

*He **depended on** his writing for his income.*

➡ ASPECTUAL VALUE (verb + aspectual particles, denoting an action was performed thoroughly, continuously, completely)

*He **ate up** his lunch.*

VERBAL GRAMMATICAL CATEGORIES

- ↳ **FINITENESS** - finite, non-finite
- ↳ **NUMBER** - singular, plural
- ↳ **PERSON** - the speaker, the addressee, the absent ones
- ↳ **ASPECT** - completed, incompleted action
- ↳ **MOOD** - indicative, imperative, subjunctive
- ↳ **VOICE** - active, passive
- ↳ **TENSE** - present, past, future

FINITE AND NON-FINITE FORMS OF THE VERB

► FINITE VERBAL FORMS

1. A finite form of the verb is one which is **limited by or bound to some subject with which it agrees in number and person**. *I **play** the violin; He **plays** the violin; They **play** the violin.*

2. A finite verbal form can occur as the only verb form in the predicator of main or subordinate clause: *When you go to London, you **must** visit the British Museum.*

3. Besides number and person the finite verb forms can indicate the following grammatical categories:

- ASPECT
- MOOD
- TENSE
- VOICE

4. The only function of a finite verbal form is to realize finite verbal phrases which always constitute the predicator in a sentence: *She **will be** twenty next year. / John **has** always **been** kind to me. / He **writes** poems.*

► NON-FINITE VERBAL FORMS

The non-finite verbal forms are:

- a) **THE INFINITIVE**
- b) **THE GERUND**
- c) **THE PARTICIPLES** (the *-ing* participle and the past participle)

These three classes of non-finite forms serve to distinguish three classes of non-finite verbal phrases: INFINITIVAL, GERUNDIAL, and PARTICIPIAL.

The non-finite forms **do not express the grammatical categories of person, number and mood**; hence there is no person or number agreement between the subject and the non-finite predicator.

The non-finite verbal forms may, however, indicate the grammatical categories of:

- ASPECT
- TENSE
- VOICE

Unlike the finite verbal forms, which have only one function, the non-finite verbal forms can have several functions:

- a) They are used in the formation of finite and non-finite verbal phrases.
 - ◆ In a finite verbal phrase the only or the first element is always finite, the following element(s) being non-finite.
 - ◆ In a non-finite verbal phrase the only element or all the elements are non-finite:
 - To-infinitive or bare infinitive: *(to) ask, (to) be asked, (to) have asked, (to) have been asked, (to) be asking, (to) have been asking,*
 - Gerund or participle: *asking, being asked, having asked, having been asked*
 - Past participle: *asked*
- b) In main clauses non-finite forms normally occur only as parts of a complex finite verbal phrase which functions as a predicator.

⇒ *He was sitting in an armchair.*
 f n-f

Main clauses with a non-finite verbal phrase as predicator are very rare. However, a non-finite verbal phrase can occur in other elements of main clauses, such as subject, object, or object complement.

⇒ *Skiing is difficult. / He resented being laughed at. / She looked worried.*

- c) However, a non-finite verbal phrase occurs as the only predicator in non-finite clauses.

⇒ *The best thing would be to call the doctor.*
 S P SC O

As a sentence element **to call the doctor** is subject complement; it is a non-finite clause with **to call** as the predicator and **the doctor** as object.

NUMBER AND PERSON

There are two numbers in the English verb: the **singular** and the **plural**.

The verb has three persons:

1. THE FIRST PERSON - The person who speaks
2. THE SECOND PERSON - The person spoken to
3. THIRD PERSON - The person or thing talked about

The only personal inflection of the English verb is the *s*-inflection of the 3rd person singular in the present tense of the indicative mood. The verb *be* has three forms for person and number in the present tense and two forms in the past tense. In all other cases only the combination of the verb with the personal pronoun indicates the person and number of the verb. Therefore, the personal pronouns is never dropped in English.

ASPECT

Aspect is a grammatical category of the verb which expresses **the manner in which an action or state is presented by the speaker**; the action may be presented as COMPLETED or UNCOMPLETED.

In English the category of aspect is mainly expressed by the opposition of the non-progressive (indefinite) tense forms and the progressive tense forms. *he wrote - he was writing*

THE ASPECTUAL CHARACTER OF AN ACTION MAY IN ENGLISH BE EXPRESSED IN FOUR WAYS:

1. BY THE LEXICAL MEANING OF THE VERB ITSELF

The aspectual character of an action may be expressed by the lexical verb itself. According to their inherent semantic meaning lexical verbs can be divided into **DURATIVE** and **TERMINATIVE** verbs. Within the former groups there is a subclass of **stative** verbs, and within the latter there are **punctual** verbs:

► NON-TERMINATIVE VERBS / DURATIVE VERBS

⇒ Denote an action with no limit, no final state; the action expressed by a non-terminative verb has not been started in order to be finished. To this class belong such verbs as *admire, belong, consist, detest, hate, hope, like, love, move, possess, respect, sleep ...*

⇒ **STATIVE DURATIVE VERBS** (denote a state); cannot normally be used in the progressive tenses because they do not denote duration in a limited time.

Ann has red hair. / The amendment remains in force.

⇒ **NON-STATIVE DURATIVE VERBS** (denote an action)

Georgina stared at him. / John has worked as a government official.

► TERMINATIVE VERBS

⇒ Denote an action with a final aim or certain limit beyond which it cannot go. To this class belong verbs expressing momentary or point actions such as *awake, burst, catch, clap, drop, end, fall, kill, leave, lose, answer, become ...*

⇒ **PUNCTUAL TERMINATIVE VERBS** (denote an action which lasts a short period of time)

I dropped my glasses and broke them. / He tapped the table to still the shouts of protest.

⇒ **NON-PUNCTUAL TERMINATIVE VERBS** (denote an action)

They will receive their awards at a ceremony in Madrid. / The ice melted.

When deciding on the aspectual character of an action, these criteria might help:

verb	dynamism	duration	telicity	aspectual character
<i>received</i>	+	+	+	terminative, non-punctual
<i>dropped</i>	+	-	+	terminative, punctual
<i>stared</i>	+	+	-	durative, non-stative
<i>has</i>	-	+	-	durative, stative

2. BY A LARGE NUMBER OF VERBS AND VERBAL PHRASES USED AS SUBSTITUTES FOR VERBS WHICH DO NOT ADEQUATELY EXPRESS THE ASPECTUAL CHARACTER OF THE ACTION

→ Inchoative meaning denotes a change of state / transition

↳ *become, come, fall, get, grow, go, take, run* + gerund, adjective, infinitive

He is nice. → He became nice.

She is mad. → She has gone mad.

→ Durative meaning implies one action for a long period of time

↳ *continue, go on, keep (on), stay, go on* + -ing form

She nagged. → She kept on nagging.

Mary pinched George. → Mary continued pinching George.

→ Frequentative meaning implies repetition in a period of time

↳ *will/would* + infinitive; *used* + to-infinitive

She complains. → She will complain.

She helped me a lot. → She used to help me a lot.

She read crime stories. → She would read crime stories.

3. BY ADDING ADVERBIAL PARTICLES TO SOME VERBS

*Sometimes they keep you **on** a bit longer, if they can't find anyone else to take your place.* (continuousness)

*He used **up** all the coins he had.* (completion)

*Everyone is chattering **away** in different languages.* (persistence)

*How long will our coal reserves last **out**?* (endurance)

*You'd better not fool **around** with your friend's wives.* (aimless behaviour)

4. BY THE PROGRESSIVE OR THE INDEFINITE TENSE FORM

English distinguishes three types of grammatical aspects:

1. THE INDEFINITE
2. THE PROGRESSIVE
3. THE PERFECT FORM

THE INDEFINITE VS. THE PROGRESSIVE:

The difference between the indefinite and the progressive concerns:

1. The **durational** character of the action:

The indefinite merely reports an action without indicating its duration and accomplishment. While reporting a fact, this verbal form remains neutral or indefinite as to the aspect of the action. Accordingly, the aspect expressed by the non-progressive form is called the **INDEFINITE / COMMON ASPECT** (nedoločni vid)

Mary will write a long letter. (= Mary bo napisala dolgo pismo ali Mary bo pisala dolgo pismo)

The progressive form indicates an action continuing through a period of time within certain time limits; it represent a concrete action in its development at a given moment, present, past, or future, thus making up the **PROGRESSIVE ASPECT** *Mary will be writing a letter. (=Mary bo pisala pismo)*

⇒ We can thus say that the indefinite form indicates both continuous and instantaneous activities or states, while the progressive form denotes continuous activities or states only.

2. The **frequentative** character of the action

Repeated actions are normally expressed by the indefinite tenses often accompanied by *always, continually, constantly, forever*.

He always goes to pubs on Sundays.

Grandfather constantly smoked his pipe.

When in London, he constantly visited museums and art galleries.

These time indicators are combined with the progressive tenses when the speaker wants to indicate frequent repetition with the suggestion of annoyance, irritation, disapproval, or even pleasure:

He is always going to pubs on Sundays. (anger)

He is constantly spilling tea on the carpet. (annoyance)

He is always dreaming of her. (pleasure)

⇒ The statements with the indefinite form are matter-of-fact and objective, those with the progressive contain an element of exaggeration brought about by emotion (emotional colouring, subjective).

3. The permanent or temporary character of the action

The indefinite form is used to indicate permanent activities or states and permanent repetition.

The earth turns round the sun.

The sun rises in the east.

My husband does the cooking.

The progressive form may indicate activities repeated within a limited period of time but not permanent repetition. With the verb in the progressive form there is always an expectation that there was or will be an end to the activity or state.

Mrs. Black is doing the cooking this week.

The sentence indicates that the activity is repeated, but over a limited period of time, i. e. it is temporary.

The period of time is often shown to be limited by adjuncts such as *this (that) week, these days, those days.*

Involuntary vs. voluntary actions

When verbs of perception (feel, hear, notice, recognize, see, smell, taste) refer to something involuntary only the indefinite form is used.

Do you hear a noise outside?

I see the sky.

But these verbs may be used in the progressive tenses when they have special meaning expressing voluntary activities:

The judge is hearing a witness.

I am feeling this material to see whether it is wool or not.

I am smelling these perfumes and trying to decide which to buy.

<i>to eat</i>	durative
<i>to eat an apple</i>	terminative
<i>to eat apples</i>	durative
↳ Depends on whether the DO is limited or not.	

<i>to eat</i>	terminative
<i>to sneeze once</i>	terminative
<i>to sneeze for an hour</i>	terminative (frequ.)

He sneezed for an hour

He was sneezing.

He was sneezing for an hour. → Stylistically considered bad, because it expresses the same thing once (progressive + *an hour*)

MOOD

Mood is a form of the verb that shows **in what relation to the reality the speaker places and action or state** expressed by the verb. The speaker may present an action or state as reality, command, request, desirable, doubtful, unreal, etc. English verbs have three moods:

1. **THE INDICATIVE**
2. **THE IMPERATIVE**
3. **THE SUBJUNCTIVE**

INDICATIVE MOOD

Shows that the speaker presents the action or state as an actual fact and affirms or negates its existence; the interrogative form inquires into facts.

George reads books.

The moon is not a planet. → negation

Is she pregnant again? → interrogative

The Earth is flat. → the speaker perceives this as a fact, so it is still indicative.

IMPERATIVE MOOD

Expresses the speaker's order, command, request, wish, warning, etc. - the speaker urges the addressee to fulfil an action. The imperative mood has only one simple form for the 2nd person singular and plural, and coincides with the base of the verb.

Talk! } 2nd person sg., pl.

Don't talk!

Let me do it! } 3rd person sg., pl (let + base)

Let's go!

Shut the door, will you?

Will you is often added to an imperative; it changes the order or command into a polite request.

Let's play another game, shall we?

Shall (we), instead of will (we)

Please, do take another piece of cake. → the persuasive imperative

It is typical of the imperative that the subject is not expressed. Using the subject in imperative implies strong irritation.

You be quiet!

→ subject of the imperative can only take the initial position

Somebody open the door!

Mary, open the door. = Open the door, Mary. → vocative subject can take the final, initial, middle position.

Why don't you just disappear? → Quasi-imperative

SUBJUNCTIVE MOOD

The subjunctive mood is used to represent an idea not as a real fact, but as a wish, doubt, or condition, or as problematic or contrary to the fact. The use of the subjunctive mood is optional and often replaced. Other ways of expressing the subjunctive are used:

⇒ The indicative mood or modal verbs such as *may/might* or *shall/should*:

A man may / might be old or young, but he can still fall in love. (modal verb)

Be a man old or young, he can still fall in love. (subjunctive mood)

Whether a man is old or young he can still fall in love. (indicative mood)

The sentence is that the accused be hanged. (subjunctive mood)

The sentence is that the accused should be hanged. (modal verb)

- ⇒ Tense shift whereby the past tense is used with reference to present or future time, and the past perfect tense with reference to past time; these are the so called modal past tense and the modal past perfect tense:

If only I knew what to answer. *If only I had known what to answer.*

There are a few synthetic forms of the subjunctive which have survived:

PRESENT INDICATIVE		PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE	
TO BE	TO SPEAK	TO BE	TO SPEAK
I AM	I SPEAK	I BE	-
YOU ARE	YOU SPEAK	YOU BE	-
HE/SHE/IT IS	HE/SHE/IT SPEAKS	HE/SHE/IT BE	HE/SHE/IT SPEAK
WE ARE	WE SPEAK	WE BE	-
YOU ARE	YOU SPEAK	YOU BE	-
THEY ARE	THEY SPEAK	THEY BE	-
PAST INDICATIVE		PAST SUBJUNCTIVE	
I WAS	I SPOKE	I WERE	-
YOU WERE	YOU SPOKE	-	-
HE/SHE/IT WAS	HE/SHE/IT SPOKE	HE/SHE/IT WERE	-
WE WERE	WE SPOKE	-	-
YOU WERE	YOU SPOKE	-	-
THEY WERE	THEY SPOKE	-	-

▷ PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE

	TO BE		TO SPEAK	
1 st	I be	we be	I speak	we speak
2 nd	you be	you be	you speak	you speak
3 rd	he be	they be	he speak	they speak
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.

In the present subjunctive the verb *be* has the form *be* for all persons singular and plural. In all other verbs the forms of the present subjunctive differ from the corresponding forms of the present indicative mood only in the 3rd person singular, which in the present subjunctive has no *-s* inflection.

○ THE MANDATIVE SUBJUNCTIVE

Typically occurs in formal registers, usually in written discourse. Always occurs in the subordinate clause that must be introduced by a noun, verb, adjective denoting demand. The subordinate clause must convey the meaning of a command, order... *The committee insists that this decision be reconsidered.*

It is imperative that each member of this club inform himself of these rules.

The subordinate clause is introduced by an adjective.

The requirement that all passengers be thoroughly searched was not well accepted.

The subordinate clause is introduced by a noun.

The committee insists that this decision should be reconsidered.

↳ Putative should replacing the subjunctive

The committee insists on this decision being reconsidered.

It is imperative for each member of this club to inform himself of these values.

↳ Replacing the subjunctive.

When negating the present conjunction: *not* before the verb (without *do*, *does*). With the verb *be*, *not* can follow or precede the verb. *It is essential that this mission not fail.*

○ THE FORMULAIC SUBJUNCTIVE

Restricted to set expressions/phrases, idioms

Come what may.

God save the queen.

Suffice it to say that George is a crook.

Be that as it may, we have nothing to lose.

○ OTHER USES OF THE PRESENT SUBJUNCTIVE:

↳ condition, concession, purpose,.. but it sounds formal

Whatever be the reason for this action, we cannot tolerate such disloyalty.

Whether she be right or wrong, she will always have my support.

▷ PAST SUBJUNCTIVE (The WERE SUBJUNCTIVE)

	TO BE		TO SPEAK	
1 st	<i>I were</i>	/	/	/
2 nd	/	/	/	/
3 rd	<i>he were</i>	/	/	/
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.

Substitute forms for the (non-existent) past subjunctive are the past tense forms = the modal past tense

	TO BE		TO SPEAK	
1 st	<i>I was</i>	<i>we were</i>	<i>I spoke</i>	<i>we spoke</i>
2 nd	<i>you were</i>	<i>you were</i>	<i>you spoke</i>	<i>you spoke</i>
3 rd	<i>he was</i>	<i>they were</i>	<i>he spoke</i>	<i>they spoke</i>
	sg.	pl.	sg.	pl.

In the past subjunctive the verb *be* has the form *were* for the 1st and 3rd person singular. In the plural of the verb *be* and in all persons singular and plural of lexical verbs there is no past subjunctive, the so called modal

past tense, which is identical in form with the indicative mood, being used instead. The past subjunctive is mostly used in conditional clauses, denoting rejected or hypothetical condition for past and future. It is used :

- a) In conditional clauses of rejected condition referring to present and future time: *If father were here, he would help us; If I were to tell him the truth, he would feel desperate.*
- b) After *as if* and *as though*: *He loves her as if she were his own daughter.*
- c) After *wish* when an unrealizable desire is expressed: *I wish she were here; He almost wished he were dead.*

If George were serious, he would call you back.

If I were sociable, I would talk more.

George behaves as if he were a king.

I wish she were politer.

Suppose everyone were to give up their belongings.

But: *It's time I was in bed*

Consider:

If he was leaving you, you would have heard about it. → more likely for him to be leaving her

If He were leaving you, you would have heard about it. → hypothetical

VOICE

Voice is the category of the verb which indicates whether the **subject acts or is acted upon**. There are two voices:

▷ ACTIVE

Indicates that the subject acts, that it stands for the doer of the action:

The soldiers are building a new bridge.

▷ PASSIVE

Indicates that the subject is acted upon, that it stands for the receiver of the action.

A new bridge is being built.

Thus the division into voices is based on the relation between the action expressed by the predicator and the doer or receiver of the action expressed by the subject.