

SEMINAR 3 – FULL VERBS

As word class, verbs can be divided into **3 major categories**:

- a) **full verbs (=lexical verbs)** – e.g. work, live, like...etc. → can act only as main verbs
- b) **primary verbs**: be, have, do → can act either as main verbs or auxiliaries
- c) **modal auxiliaries**: can, may, shall, will, must, could, might, should, would → can act only as auxiliary verbs

- if there is only **one verb** in the verb phrase, it is the **main verb**
- if there are **more verbs**, the **final one is the main verb**, the **other verbs** that come before it are **auxiliaries**

e.g. He lives with his mother and sister.
He has been working on the project for 3 months.

FULL VERBS

Verb forms

- regular full verbs have **four morphological forms**:

- a) base form (the form which has no inflection = the bare infinitive or to-infinitive)
- b) –s form
- c) –ing participle
- d) –ed form

- irregular verbs – the number of forms varies: speak (5 forms), cut (3 forms), build (4 forms)

! the primary verb “be” has eight forms: _____

Finite and nonfinite verb phrases and forms

We distinguish a) finite and nonfinite **verb phrases** (and finite **clauses**)
b) finite and nonfinite **verb forms**

Finite verb phrase

- is a phrase in which **the first or only word is a finite verb** – i.e. –s form and **past form** (always) and the **base form** (only sometimes!)

e.g. She **works** in a shop. (=finite verb and finite phrase)
I **saw** her yesterday. (= finite verb and finite phrase)
Call me later. (here the base form is finite, the verb phrase is therefore finite too) - imperative

If the **verb phrase consists of more verbs** and **the first is a finite verb** – **the whole phrase is finite**; the other verbs in the phrase are nonfinite verb forms!

e.g. He **has moved** recently. = the whole verb phrase is finite because “has” is a finite verb!

+ this verb phrase consists of two verbs – **has** is a **finite verb form** and **moved** is a **nonfinite verb form**

How do you recognize a finite verb form?

- Finite verb phrases**
- a) can occur as the verb phrase of independent clauses
 - b) have tense contrast (ie. between present and past tenses)
 - c) have person concord and number concord
 - d) have mood – indicative, imperative, subjunctive

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Nonfinite verb phrase

- is a phrase in which **the first or only word is a nonfinite verb** – i.e. **-ing participle** and **-ed participle** (always) and the **base form** (only sometimes!)

e.g. **Seeing** him, I remembered I wanted to talk to him. (=nonfinite verb and nonfinite phrase)

Called early, he ate a quick breakfast. (=nonfinite verb and nonfinite phrase)

To smoke like that must be dangerous. (= nonfinite verb and nonfinite phrase)

Such phrases do not normally occur as the verb phrase of an independent clause!

SPELLING AND PRONUNCIATION

a) -ing – is merely added to the base: walk – walking

-s inflection has 3 pronunciations: /ɪz/ =
/z/ =
/s/ =

-ed form has 3 pronunciations: /ɪd/ =
/d/ =
/t/ =

b) *doubling of consonant*: before *-ing* and *-ed* when the preceding vowel is stressed and spelled with a single letter, e.g. occur – occurring - occurred

!in BrE there is doubling after unstressed -l, -m, -p e.g. travelling, programming, worshipped

!notice: words in c (spelled -ck): panic – panicking - panicked

c) *deletion of and addition of -e:*

- unpronounced *-e* is dropped before *-ing* and *-ed*, e.g. create – creating
- but: bases in *-ye, -oe, -nge* lose it before *-ed*, but do not lose it before *-ing*
e.g. dye – dyed – dyeing
- before the *-s* ending an *-e* is added after sibilant consonants: s, z, ch, sh, x
- *-e* is added after *-o*: goes, does, vetoes

d) *treatment of -y*

- consonant + *y* → *-ie* before *-s* and *-ed*, e.g. carries, carried
- vowel + *-y* and when preceded by *-ing* → *y* remains, e.g. stayed, staying
- notice: die, lie, tie, vie: *-ie* changes into *-y* before *-ing*: die – dying, lie – lying

IRREGULAR FULL VERBS

- have three principal parts – base form, the past form, the *-ed* participle

!! See the list of irregular verbs – *Greenbaum and Quirk, p. 29 - 34*